

29 October 2009

2009 GRAIN CO-PRODUCTION PROJECT– OCTOBER 2009

This report has been prepared by AACL as the Project Manager of the 2007, 2008 and 2009 Grain Co-Production Projects. In summary:

- Harvest has commenced in some regions, however
- The majority of harvesting is not expected to commence until mid November.
- Forecast production across the Australian Grain-belt ranges from above expected production to less than expected production in some regions.
- The recent appreciation of the Australian dollar has placed downward pressure on the local value of all Australian commodities and falling prices will likely have a negative impact on returns.
- Harvesting is unlikely to finish until late January 2010.
- It is likely that AACL will store grain and sell a substantial amount of grain in the second half of 2010 with an expectation of receiving potentially higher prices.
- Returns for investors are unlikely to be estimated until mid 2010, however
- Indications of the estimated taxation position are likely to be provided by April 2010.

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

Western Australia

Over the last month, below average rainfall over much of WA has caused growing conditions in some areas of WA to decline.

The northern region of WA is still on track for average to above average yields. The yield prospects for central and eastern regions have reduced due to lack of October rain and recent hot weather.

The southern and Esperance regions continue to experience dry weather which will impact on expected yields.

Harvest is due to commence for most northern, central and eastern areas by mid November with southern and Esperance farmers likely to commence in late November.

South Australia

Conditions in SA have improved considerably during October with excellent spring rainfall and mild temperatures. From current information available, SA is expected to achieve a better than average yield result.

Harvest is expected to be well underway by mid to late November.

Victoria

In the higher rainfall areas of Victoria, wet conditions in the last month have not had a positive impact on the growth and development of crops.

Elsewhere, patchy rains have either improved crop conditions (i.e. Wimmera) or caused crop conditions to decline (i.e. north central Victoria). However, average yields are still expected overall from the Victorian crops.

Harvest is expected to be underway by late November or early December for most parts of Victoria, with higher rainfall districts beginning harvesting towards early January.

New South Wales

Continued dry conditions in NSW since September have significantly impacted on expected yields in western and south western regions.

Due to the drier than average conditions, yields are now expected to be less than average across most of southern NSW.

Harvest is expected to be underway by mid to late November in central and southern NSW and has already begun in parts of northern NSW.

Region	Rainfall to Date (Growing Season)	Risk Factors	Yield Outlook (dependent on risk factors)
WA Northern	Average to above average	Dry spring in northern and eastern areas	Average to above average
WA Central Eastern Southern	Average to below average	Dry, warm spring	Below average
WA South Coast	Average to below average	Dry, warm spring	Below average
SA Eyre Peninsula	Above average	Harvest rain, delivery logistics	Above average
SA Mid North Yorke Peninsula Lower North	Above average	Harvest rain, delivery logistics	Above average
VIC Wimmera Mallee Southern Central North North East	Above average to below average	Adequate spring finish for higher rainfall areas	Average to above average
NSW Northern	Below average	Dry conditions	Average
NSW Central Southern Riverina	Well below average	Dry, warm spring	Well below average

PRICING

AUD\$

The recent appreciation of the Australian dollar has placed downward pressure on the local value of all Australian commodities and the wheat, barley and canola markets have not been immune.

Wheat

Fundamentally the wheat market is bearish, largely due to ample global wheat supplies on the back of two of the largest ever northern hemisphere winter wheat crops. With ample supplies of old crop (2008 season) and no significant production issues with the new crop (2009 season), there is currently little incentive for end users to aggressively buy wheat and thus push prices up.

Bearish fundamentals have not stopped the US wheat futures market, driven by hedge fund activity, from pushing up significantly in the past couple of weeks. The continued appreciation of the Australian dollar and the reluctance of the end user to buy has meant that local prices have moved up, but nowhere near the extent that futures prices have rallied.

Wheat prices have fallen from an estimated \$330/tonne Free on Board (FOB) price at the time of contracting farmers (April/May) to an estimated \$255/t FOB currently. While the current indicative FOB price of wheat in the AACL Project Pool ("Project Pool") is approximately \$265/t, the price is expected to be in the range of \$245/t to \$285/t at the finalisation of the Project Pool.

Barley

The *malt barley* story is unchanged from last month's update - supply worldwide is plentiful due mostly to the excellent yield and quality of the European crop. Australian production is looking positive with an exportable surplus of approximately 2 million metric tonnes (mmt) expected this season. The malt barley market is similar to the wheat market - with ample existing supplies and solid production prospects there is currently little incentive for acquirers to aggressively buy.

The vast majority of demand for *feed barley* comes from the Middle East and as domestic production has generally been favourable this season, their import demand has decreased.

In Australia, decreased regional demand and strong production potential means the prospect of significant price rallies seem remote. However the recent appreciation in the Euro has benefitted Australian barley pricing prospects as this appreciation has made European barley less competitive into Asian markets where Australia has a freight advantage.

The current indicative FOB price for malt barley is \$240/t and \$180/t for feed barley. All barley contracts were priced on feed barley values that were approximately \$215 FOB at the time of contracting farmers. The indicative FOB range for the Project Pool is \$210/t to \$250/t for malt barley and \$160/t to \$200/t for feed barley.

Canola

Following the acute tight oilseed supply situation from last year, a good oilseed crop is expected this year. The major canola crops come from Canada and Europe, both of which had above average production years. Further pressure is being put on the oilseed market with particularly large South American soybean planting intentions.

Some support in the short term is coming from a delayed soybean harvest in the US. However current estimates have this as one of the largest soybean crops in the US and as harvest progresses it is expected price will come under pressure.

The current indicative FOB price of canola is approximately \$455/t versus \$570/t at the time of contracting farmers. Current FOB estimate for the Project Pool is \$480/t, with the price expected to be in the range of \$460/t to \$500/t FOB at the finalisation of the Project Pool.

GRAIN SALES

Harvest is expected to be completed at different stages across the country with some regions finishing in November and others in late January to early February. As the grain is sold, AAFL reconciles every load of grain to ensure that the Project is paid the correct amount per load. This is an important reconciliation process which can take some time to accurately complete.

In addition, it is likely that some of the Project grain will not be sold until the second half of next year where better opportunities may present for selling grain than exist currently due to the large supply in the northern hemisphere.

The impact of these factors is that we expect it to be mid 2010, or possibly later, until we are able to accurately estimate the return position for investors. However, it is expected that a taxation estimate will be made by April 2010.

For further information in regards to this report please contact your Financial Adviser or me on (08) 9217 3777 or robert.melville@aafl.com.au.

Yours sincerely



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