



Over the Christmas break substantial rain was recorded across the Central West filling soil moisture profiles. Then a couple of weeks ago, rain fell again with up to 4 inches recorded out the Tullamore Road. I was caught in between these downpours driving from Gilgandra. It was amazing to see every causeway flooded from Eumungerie to Narromine. In some parts the rain was so heavy I had to slow to 40km/hr as I couldn't see through the windscreen. At this stage the 2010/11 season seems to have got off to a good start. Lets hope for another couple of inches closer to sowing.

Earlier this week, prices for wheat and barley on a Newcastle basis were; Australian Prime Hard (APH1) \$232/t, Australian Premium White (APW) \$215/t and Feed (F1) Barley \$200/t. Canola prices moved upwards to levels as high as \$430/t. It seems that this has excited some growers looking to market the remainder of their canola and at bids of \$440/t Delivered into Newcastle, interest from growers has increased for the ones that are looking to cart fertilizer back to the farm. A few have started to move the last of their on farm stocks down to Newcastle considering freight advantage.

Over the past couple of weeks 2010/11 prices have been released. Multigrade APW contracts are hovering around \$230/t, which isn't attracting any attention. At only \$15 over 2009/10 season's wheat prices, the word from producers is that hectares planted to wheat for the up coming season will be drastically reduced as it just isn't viable. Canola forward prices have been seen also over the past couple of weeks and are sitting around the \$437/t mark. As these prices are much the same as this year's, interest has been very low at this stage.

Across the Central West producers are now deciding which crops to plant for this season. With many marketing opportunities on offer to minimize your production risk, all should be aware of the High Oleic canola hectare contracts that are available. With premiums guaranteed to the producer, seed to be picked up ex-farm 10 days after harvest and zero production risk as contracts are on a hectare basis; these contracts are growing in popularity throughout the region.

Another marketing opportunity for producers with irrigation or high rainfall is the Soft Wheat Hectare Contracts. With up to \$85 premiums attached and the ability to lock in a price up until November 1st 2010, this is another option of interest to producers for the 2010/11 season.

For further details contact your local Australian Grain Accumulation,

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