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Harvest of the winter crop has now finished in the Moree region. It has been a tough season with lower yields and prices compared with last year's harvest. Hopefully next year's yields and prices are higher.

This year's wheat harvest has been very variable in both quality and yield. In the Moree/Narrabri area yields of 2-2.5t/ha were very disappointing due to the lack of in-crop rainfall, however, the large majority of wheat was of Prime Hard quality. In the Walgett area yields of 2.5-3t/ha were much higher than Moree due to the rainfall received in February although quality was an issue with all grades.

Rainfall over the past month has been very patchy. There have been reports of high totals in localised areas, however, the vast majority areas have received minimal rainfall. Some areas in the Namoi River region received substantial rainfall in late October.

Due to the lack of rainfall producers are holding back on planting dryland summer crops; in particular sorghum. With some decent rain in December we could see more summer crop planted.

Current prices of sorghum, mono sunflowers and soybeans at time of writing on a Newcastle basis are: Sorghum \$225, Mono Sunflowers \$629 and Soybeans \$510. There are contracts available for edible Soybeans delivered Darling Downs at \$550. These prices have increased considerably over the past month driven mostly domestic influences. Also, timing of rainfall will be crucial to crop type selection and amount may well determine whether growers fallow through to next years winter crop.

This year it seems that growers are content to hold grain on-farm or in warehouse and market throughout the coming year. It is worth noting the amount of on-farm storage being built in the region. Furthermore, growers are beginning to look into selling lower grades of wheat into regional end-users.

For further details contact your local Australian Grain Accumulation office,  
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