



It's a busy time of the year for northern New South Wales growers. At the moment growers are planting winter crop and harvesting late planted summer crops. However there is not a lot of joy completing these jobs as prices for most agricultural commodities are poor in the mind of the grower.

Over the past few weeks there has been virtually no rain over a majority of the region. Despite this most of northern New South Wales is still holding onto good subsoil moisture profiles; however the topsoil is drying out in some regions. This has forced some growers to dry sow some crops.

The harvest of late plant mono sunflowers is occurring at a slow pace however this will intensify over the next couple of weeks. So far yields of late plant mono sunflowers have been much better than their early plant counterparts, with yields ranging from 1.2-1.6t/ha and prices (at time of writing) fetching \$555 per tonne delivered Narrabri.

In recent weeks old crop pricing for wheat has slowly lifted into delivered markets. Many growers have been receiving around \$180 ex-farm from the NSW/Queensland border region. This grain is destined for chicken and beef feedlots throughout southern Queensland.

Wheat bids in the Newcastle zone, for most grades, have slowly risen over the past 3 weeks. However this has failed to increase grower interest. Current prices of wheat on a Newcastle basis are: APH1 \$227, APH2 \$223, H2 \$209 and APW1 \$203. Also lower grade are being traded from depots at northern sites. This grain is moving into the Darling Downs and to Brisbane chicken and beef feedlots.

Canola bids in the Newcastle zone have remained relatively stable over the past month. Current bids on 2009/10 canola are: Newcastle track \$430 and delivered Newcastle \$440. 2010/11 canola bids are: Newcastle track \$425 and delivered Newcastle \$445. This has created some interest over the past month, especially for 2010/11 canola. At the moment producers have been happy to hedge and eliminate price risk at these levels.

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