



With harvest in full swing in the southern central region, we have seen again, unusual weather conditions. Temperatures last week were 20 degrees Celsius above normal for this time of the year and we saw the rural fire services advising harvesting operations to cease due to catastrophic fire conditions. Hectares were lost around the Parkes region, as well as a header the week before, but at the time of writing, the temperatures have dropped and we are now recording under half of what the temperature was last week.

Canola harvest is finished in the central to western regions with the Cowra/Grenfell area and further south just coming in. We are seeing a range of oils results, from further north around 42-44%, and in the southern regions, as low as 31%. Barley and wheat crops are still green in some cases and although there has been a very early start to the harvest we will see crops coming in further towards the end of December.

The past week has shown a mixed bag on harvest conditions, with one grower commenting that he had finished harvest with low yields and other growers stating that they have had good wheat crops and are quite pleased with their results. With this season, it depended on what storm you were under, some areas lucky enough to record smaller falls at regular intervals throughout the year.

Few growers are commenting that they have used the pools to any major extent and we are seeing significant utilization of on farm storage with around 80% of this season's harvest to be held on farm. Most growers are warehousing stocks and are looking to market their grain after harvest. With more markets available to them, including Jindalee feedlot near Temora and the container market at Fletchers in Dubbo, growers are being savvy with their marketing options. More and more growers are looking to market their grain on a more regular basis, i.e. smaller parcels at more regular intervals throughout the year. This ensures regular income, risk reduction with fluctuating prices and lets them take advantage of any upswing in the market throughout the year.

On a final note, we are once again leading up to the sowing season and we are in full swing with our High Oleic Canola program. With indicative results looking good for last season, anyone wishing to take part in this program for the 2010 growing year please call the office for any enquiries. With hectare contracts, and premiums available for past years, this is a very promising program, and seed can and does become very limited.

For further details contact your local Australian Grain Accumulation,
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