

Just as the headers slowly rolled back into the paddocks after last weekend's rains, the skies have opened and yet again things have ground to a halt. This has become a common scenario throughout the state with growers now losing up to two weeks reaping. Sprouting has caused numerous crops to be down graded in both wheat and also barley alike. Test weight has also been an issue for many of the crops as a result of not only the rain but also the heat wave experienced during grain fills. The heat is expected to possibly reduce the yields of some of the crops in the mid north and south east that are yet to be harvested by up to 10 – 30 percent. Blacktip and staining is causing a large problem in malt barley crops, with many crops that would have otherwise gone malt 1, be downgraded to feed.

There is, however, some positive news with the west coast crops having reaped most of their crops before these rains and reporting good quality at average yields. Canola crops have also fared well, with oil content predominantly well above the export levels of 42% and yields have been at or above average.

Market activity has remained fairly quiet as growers look to fill pre-existing contracts and take advantage of reduced grade spreads to ASW and AGP that are expected to increase as harvest continues. Reports of growers receiving bonuses of up to \$50 a tone for oil bonification has led to great care being taken when applying tickets, to capture the best opportunities. Growers with un-harvested grain are not willing to take any chances committing tones with quality a great concern and those with high quality milling wheat are happy to store on farm where possible and hold off until after Christmas and see if there is any upturn in the market. Parcels of feed grades of wheat are starting to slowly hit the market as the spread to APW begins to open due to the realization of the large abundance of these grades and limited grain going hard.

The general stale mate over the majority of grain being unsold has seen back log in the bulk handling network with many sites and segregations filling to capacity. Currently within the mid north region the Adelaide terminal itself is the only site able to receive canola. With minimal grower selling grain simply isn't being moved throughout the system and this problem is set to continue with other commodities. It is recommended that growers check before delivering their grain into port and many traders will add a significant discount to warehoused grain if they will in fact take it at all.

For further details please contact your local Australian Grain Accumulation  
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