



Sorghum harvest has been a stop start affair on the Liverpool Plains for the past fortnight. While rain has been a hindrance to harvest early plant sorghum, the late plant crop could see an increase in yield potential due to recent, timely rain. Both sorghum harvest and market activity have been quiet due mainly, to softening markets. Sorghum markets softened \$4 last week to finish at \$178/mt Newcastle Port. End users and traders are well aware of the quality concerns of the crop further to the north but this is not prompting them to pay a premium for quality SOR1 as there remains a good supply of other feed grains such as wheat. At this stage most poultry and feedlots are using a wheat based ration, with wheat continuing to be priced about \$15 - \$20/mt above sorghum, end users will be sticking to a wheat based ration.

Recent rains will also potentially add another 0.1 - 0.2mt/ha yield onto late plant sunflower crops. These crops have had ideal growing conditions to date and harvest of these crops will commence in about a months time.

Canola markets continue to shift sideways. Last week new crop canola ended at \$430/mt Newcastle Port or \$440/mt delivered Newcastle crush. Higher crude oil prices are supporting local canola prices however canola supply numbers currently look heavy. With South American harvest gathering momentum we expect soybean stocks to increase placing further pressure on domestic alternatives. As a result the spread between new crop and old crop canola prices has narrowed to \$5/mt last week. The timely rain received over the Liverpool Plains in the past few weeks has turned growers' attention to preparing to sow their new crop canola. Traditionally, growers have aimed to sow canola around ANZAC day, however, this year's growers are prepared to sow a little earlier as they feel they have lost some of their yield potential in past years due to hot dry spells in September. Given the current soil moisture levels, the Liverpool Plains is in a good position to be able to produce another large winter crop.

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