



Harvest has commenced on the Liverpool Plains with early crops coming off well and producing both good quality and yield. This year's crop has endured a mixed bag of weather conditions; dry heat, frost, hail and dust storms to name a few. Despite this most growers are happy with the performance of the crop so far.

The northern half of the Liverpool Plains is well into harvest. By the end of this week this area should be about 40% harvested, weather permitting. Canola has been the first crop to come off with yield and oil content quite good. Early wheat and barley has also been harvested. Growers are tending to warehouse Malt barley and store F1 quality barley on farm. They're not being enticed to sell F1 barley at its current pricing level. Early durum wheat crops are starting to be delivered into local depots and tending to be 50:50 DR1:DR3 with the odd load being graded at DR2.

Further south on the Liverpool Plains growers are well into canola harvest. Oil content and yield has been excellent thus far, averaging about 42% oil content and yielding 2mt/ha. Growers are taking advantage of a number of marketing options for their canola this year. Direct deliveries to Newcastle for oilseed crushers are proving very popular with growers considering the premiums paid for direct deliveries. Wheat and barley harvest has only just commenced. The crop has the potential for very high yields and good quality; growers just need some dry weather for the coming weeks to get the crop off with out losing any of the quality.

Summer cropping activity across the Liverpool Plains has also increased in the last month. Growers are taking advantage of any available soil moisture after recent rain events. Sorghum, sunflowers and corn crops have been sown and are off to a good start thus far. There has been little relief for growers in the sorghum market; Australian sorghum is about \$20 above export parity. Domestically traders are struggling to price sorghum into domestic homes; there is more interest in wheat especially with the abundant supply over harvest.

Wheat markets are continuing to look heavy at present. Australian wheat is also over-priced into export markets, a continuing trend as a result of a high AUD. This season should see a premium remain for high protein wheat. Last week APW1 multigrade contracts traded at \$216 Newcastle track. The premium for APH1 (14% protein) stretched out to \$30 above APW1. The next few weeks are crucial for determining the quality of the winter crop, last year's wet finish is a not too distant memory in most growers' minds. Warm dry conditions are needed for the next few weeks to finish off this impressive season and allow growers to plant summer crops.

For further details please contact your local Australian Grain Accumulation
Field Merchant – Anna Watson, Tamworth (02) 6701 8800