



Currently the cropping areas of Queensland are in the middle of what could be called the ideal planting period for wheat. The problem that is facing growers however is that a vast majority of the Darling Downs, western Queensland and Goondiwindi regions have not had sufficient rain to completely plant intended area. In Central Queensland the situation is a little brighter with above eighty percent of intended area already planted to wheat & chick peas.

In southern Queensland, the areas that have more subsoil moisture have seen a bigger plant to chickpeas than normal. Areas around Roma, Meandarra & Condamine have fared reasonably well and approx sixty percent of intended area has been planted. Goondiwindi has seen a similar plant and across all regions there seems to have been a significantly big change into chickpeas. The Darling Downs region is the driest of the lot with only small amounts of chickpeas & barley being planted.

A number of growers have hit a crossroad as they are trying to make the decision on what to do should there be some rain in the next couple of weeks. It is not too late to plant wheat, however growers have been mentioning that they are already thinking of switching into summer crops. A number of questions are being asked on what values there are for sorghum, sunflowers and cotton. One thing that is a definite is that there is a potential swing into cotton, particularly dryland cotton. Dryland growers as far west as Dirrumbandi, where sub soil moisture is as high as one hundred percent are looking to plant cotton. Those growers in the Darling Downs who haven't grown cotton for several years are changing and planning to grow cotton again.

The flow on factor from all of the above could in fact favour new crop prices for sorghum as we will see less wheat around and the sorghum plant may be down on expectations due to the swing into cotton. This scenario is very much the same in northern New South Wales. In this region there could also be a swing into sunflowers due partly to the fact they can be planted earlier than other crops and prices are showing up well when compared to sorghum.

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