

Grain Report

8 May 2026



DELIVERING
for **DAIRY**

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Summary

Driving prices up

- Selling remains subdued with growers focusing on completing their sowing programs for this season, which has maintained upwards pressure on prices. Production and cost concerns for the coming season are also limiting engagement in new crop sales.
- Domestic feed demand on the east coast, alongside ongoing export buying from China, continues to support barley markets.

Driving prices down

- Relatively slow export demand has limited price upside for Australian wheat. The recent lift in local wheat prices in conjunction with the strengthening Australian Dollar is reducing the competitiveness of Australian grain into export markets – especially in comparison to wheat from the Black Sea.
- Offshore grain markets have softened due to easing crude oil prices, which have moved lower on the back of optimism regarding peace talks between the US and Iran.

Global trade news

- US wheat markets are paying close attention to the condition of the US winter crop. The latest US Crop Progress report estimated that only 31 per cent of the winter wheat area is in “good-to-excellent” condition, down 18 per cent year-on-year and 9 per cent below the five-year average for this point in the season.
- Philippines’ San Miguel has booked 55,000 tonnes of Australian feed wheat for US\$290 per tonne (delivered in market) with shipment scheduled for July.
- Algeria’s state grain importer, the Interprofessional Office of Cereals (OAIC), has secured 390,000 tonnes of milling wheat for US\$270 per tonne (delivered in market), with most of the grain to be sourced from the Black Sea.
- South Korea’s Korea Feed Association (KFA) has purchased 67,000 of feed corn for US\$273 per tonne (delivered in market), with delivery scheduled for June/July.

Local news

- Reports of increasing mice numbers in Western Australian and South Australian cropping regions are cause for concern for grain growers. High mice population densities in some of these areas could result in significant crop losses, with farmer groups lobbying to increase the concentration of mouse bait as the current dosage is considered to be insufficient. Grain Producers Australia estimates a mouse plague across both Western Australia and South Australia, alongside the increase in input prices, could cost the industry between \$2-3 billion over the course of the season.

Regional commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- Wheat: Up \$30 (\$430 to \$440/tonne). Barley: Up \$30 (\$435 to \$445/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$525 to \$535/tonne). Sorghum: Up \$5 (\$400 to \$410/tonne).
- The northern growing regions have had generally warm and dry conditions over the past week, with only some isolated areas receiving heavy falls. Soil moisture remains a key concern in these areas, with some still reporting “very much below” average levels. The forecast is generally showing minimal rain over the week ahead.
- Wheat bids moved higher over the past fortnight as offshore markets lifted, influenced by the conflict in the Middle East. Local feed markets have maintained steady demand putting further upwards pressure on prices.
- Barley prices increased with firm domestic demand causing prices to continue trading at a premium to wheat in many areas. Deteriorating seasonal conditions have reduced production and tightened supply, moving prices higher.
- Sorghum bids were steady to higher as feedlots seek cost-effective alternatives to cereals.

Darling Downs

- Wheat: Up \$10 (\$430 to \$440/tonne). Barley: Up \$10 (\$435 to \$445/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$505 to \$515/tonne). Sorghum: Up \$15 (\$370 to \$380/tonne).
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North Coast NSW

- Wheat: Steady (\$395 to \$405/tonne). Barley: Up \$15 (\$400 to \$410/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$515 to \$525/tonne). Sorghum: Up \$5 (\$360 to \$370/tonne).
- The northern growing regions have had generally warm and dry conditions over the past week, with only some isolated areas receiving heavy falls. Soil moisture remains a key concern in these areas, with some still reporting “very much below” average levels. The forecast is generally showing minimal rain over the week ahead.
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Central West NSW

- Wheat: Up \$45 (\$370 to \$380/tonne). Barley: Steady (\$340 to \$350/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$495 to \$505/tonne). Sorghum: Steady (\$360 to \$370/tonne).
- Growers in Central West had mixed fortunes over the past week, with some receiving upwards of 25 mm while others received only lighter falls. Growers will be hoping for additional rain to build confidence for the coming season, while unfortunately the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting dry conditions over the weekend and into next week.
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- Barley prices increased with firm domestic demand causing prices to continue trading at a premium to wheat in many areas. Deteriorating seasonal conditions have reduced production and tightened supply, moving prices higher.
- Sorghum bids were steady to higher as feedlots seek cost-effective alternatives to cereals.

Bega Valley

- Wheat: Up \$5 (\$385 to \$395/tonne). Barley: Up \$25 (\$355 to \$365/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$515 to \$525/tonne). Canola Meal: Up \$10 (\$480 to \$490/tonne).
- The southern growing regions received timely rainfall over the past week, with most areas receiving upwards of 10 mm and some receiving upwards of 25 mm. Soil moisture levels are generally average or above for this time of year, which will encourage growers to continue their winter sowing programs.
- Wheat prices were unchanged to higher as steady domestic buyer depth put upwards pressure on the market. Seller engagement remains measured which is helping to keep prices steady.
- Barley bids were mixed, although generally increased over the past fortnight as currently supply is generally meeting local demand. There has been a lift in local demand from grazier interest due to dry conditions, although recent rainfall may temper this.
- Corn held steady while canola meal increased this week.

Goulburn/Murray Valley

- Wheat: Steady (\$345 to \$355/tonne). Barley: Up \$15 (\$335 to \$345/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$515 to \$525/tonne). Canola Meal: Up \$10 (\$480 to \$490/tonne).
- The southern growing regions received timely rainfall over the past week, with most areas receiving upwards of 10 mm and some receiving upwards of 25 mm. Soil moisture levels are generally average or above for this time of year, which will encourage growers to continue their winter sowing programs.
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Gippsland

- Wheat: Steady (\$375 to \$385/tonne). Barley: Down \$5 (\$350 to \$360/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$515 to \$525/tonne). Canola Meal: Up \$10 (\$495 to \$505/tonne).
- The southern growing regions received timely rainfall over the past week, with most areas receiving upwards of 10 mm and some receiving upwards of 25 mm. Soil moisture levels are generally average or above for this time of year, which will encourage growers to continue their winter sowing programs.
- Wheat prices were unchanged to higher as steady domestic buyer depth put upwards pressure on the market. Seller engagement remains measured which is helping to keep prices steady.
- Barley bids were mixed, although generally increased over the past fortnight as currently supply is generally meeting local demand. There has been a lift in local demand from grazier interest due to dry conditions, although recent rainfall may temper this.
- Corn held steady while canola meal increased this week.

Southwest Victoria

- Wheat: Up \$15 (\$325 to \$335/tonne). Barley: Up \$10 (\$310 to \$320/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$515 to \$525/tonne). Canola Meal: Up \$10 (\$480 to \$490/tonne).
- The southern growing regions received timely rainfall over the past week, with most areas receiving upwards of 10 mm and some receiving upwards of 25 mm. Soil moisture levels are generally average or above for this time of year, which will encourage growers to continue their winter sowing programs.
- Wheat prices were unchanged to higher as steady domestic buyer depth put upwards pressure on the market. Seller engagement remains measured which is helping to keep prices steady.
- Barley bids were mixed, although generally increased over the past fortnight as currently supply is generally meeting local demand. There has been a lift in local demand from grazier interest due to dry conditions, although recent rainfall may temper this.
- Corn held steady while canola meal increased this week.

Southeast South Australia

- Wheat: Up \$5 (\$345 to \$355/tonne). Barley: Steady (\$325 to \$335/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$505 to \$515/tonne). Canola Meal: Up \$10 (\$525 to \$535/tonne).
- Growers in South Australia have benefitted from a significant widespread rainfall event over the past week, boosting confidence for the coming winter crop season. Winter crop planting continues to be the major focus for growers, with the recent rain expected to support germination.
- Wheat bids were steady to higher, largely influenced by international market movements, although limited grower selling during seeding has put upwards pressure on prices.
- Barley prices were unchanged despite growing demand from the east coast and slow grower selling during seeding.
- Corn held steady while canola meal increased this week.

Central South Australia

- Wheat: Steady (\$275 to \$285/tonne). Barley: Steady (\$305 to \$315/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$505 to \$515/tonne). Oats: Steady (\$305 to \$315/tonne).
- Growers in South Australia have benefitted from a significant widespread rainfall event over the past week, boosting confidence for the coming winter crop season. Winter crop planting continues to be the major focus for growers, with the recent rain expected to support germination.
- Wheat bids were steady to higher, largely influenced by international market movements, although limited grower selling during seeding has put upwards pressure on prices.
- Barley prices were unchanged despite growing demand from the east coast and slow grower selling during seeding.
- Corn held steady while canola meal increased this week.

Southwest Western Australia

- Wheat: Steady (\$330 to \$340/tonne). Barley: Up \$10 (\$355 to \$365/tonne). Lupins: Up \$10 (\$360 to \$370/tonne). Oats: Steady (\$300 to \$310/tonne).
- The Western Australian growing regions had mostly dry conditions over the past week, with the latest forecasts indicating the drier weather is likely to continue over the coming weeks. Soil moisture levels are still generally favourable, although growers will be looking for additional falls to keep their seasons on track.
- Wheat prices were unchanged although generally tracked global price movements over the past fortnight. Dry conditions for the season ahead, along with high input prices means the forecast for the planting area is the smallest predicted since 2010.
- Barley bids increased over the past fortnight as old crop barley is largely sold and some from some additional upwards pressure from export demand to China.
- Lupins increased while oats were unchanged.

Northwest Tasmania

- Wheat: Steady (\$465 to \$475/tonne). Barley: Down \$5 (\$440 to \$450/tonne). Maize: Steady (\$525 to \$535/tonne). Canola Meal: Up \$10 (\$585 to \$595/tonne).
- Wheat prices were unchanged to higher as steady domestic buyer depth put upwards pressure on the market. Seller engagement remains measured which is helping to keep prices steady.
- Barley bids were mixed, although generally increased over the past fortnight as currently supply is generally meeting local demand. There has been a lift in local demand from grazer interest due to dry conditions, although recent rainfall may temper this.

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Acknowledgement

Dairy Australia acknowledges the funding from levy payers and contribution by Commonwealth Government.

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