Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

ABARES

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 4/2025 30 January 2025

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 29 January 2025, low-pressure systems brought rainfall to the north and east of Australia:
  - Some rainfall was recorded across **northern cropping regions**, but falls were highly variable, with between 10–50 millimetres being recorded across parts of western and northern **Queensland.**
  - Conditions across **southern cropping regions** were drier (receiving 0–10 millimetres).
- Over the coming eight days, low-pressure systems and troughs are expected to bring rainfall across the north and east of the country.
  - Across cropping regions, **Queensland** is expected to receive up to 100 millimetres of rainfall, and northern **New South Wales** to receive up to 50 millimetres. Little to no rainfall is expected in other cropping regions.
- **The northern rainfall onset was achieved earlier than normal** across much of northern Australia despite a record late monsoon onset. This indicates sufficient and timely rainfall has been recorded across much of northern Australia, likely stimulating and supporting pasture production across many northern grazing regions.
- **Water storage** in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 23-30 January 2025 by 452 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 14,571 GL, 23% less than this time last year and equivalent to 65% of total storage capacity. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.
- **Allocation prices** in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from $156 on 23 January to $159 on 30 January. Prices are lower in regions above the Barmah choke due to the binding of the Barmah choke trade constraint.

1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

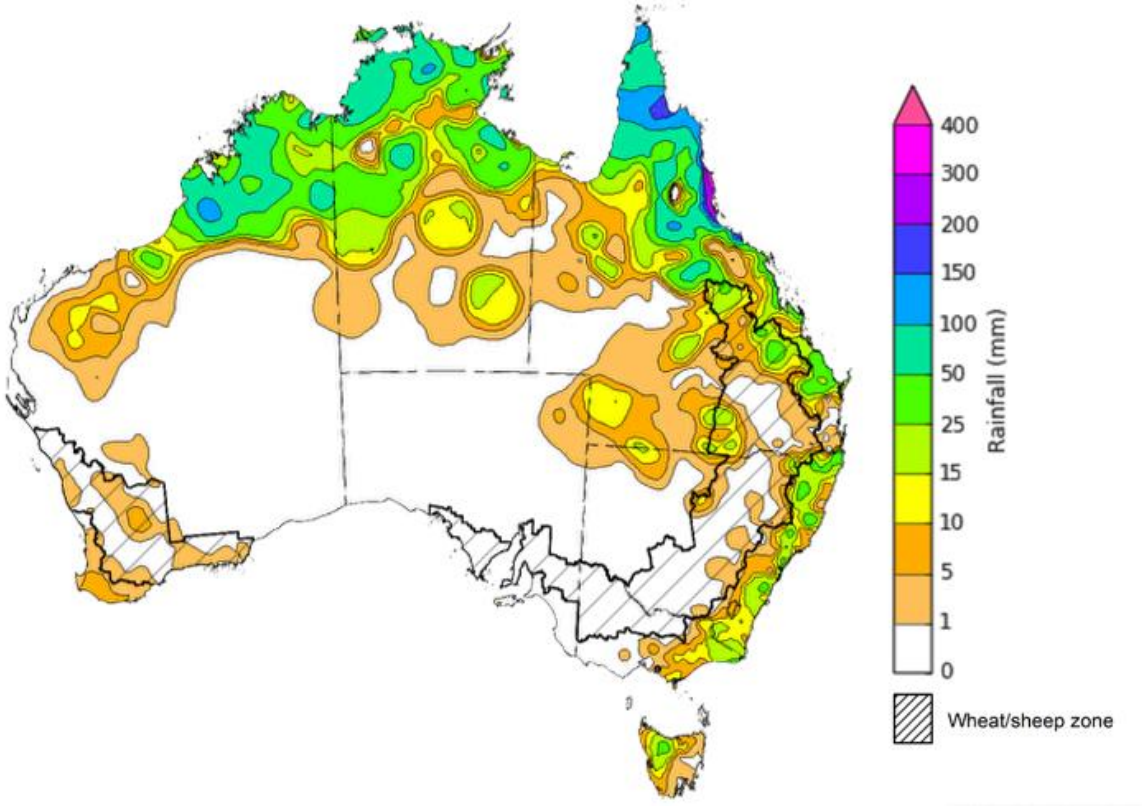
In the week ending 29 January 2025, low-pressure systems and a series of troughs brought rainfall and storms to the north and east of the country, while the remainder of the country was largely dry.

- The northern tropics, including the **Northern Territory** and northern **Western Australia** recorded falls between 25–150 millimetres. Meanwhile, much of northern **Queensland**, recorded falls between 25–200 millimetres, with up to 400 millimetres in isolated coastal areas.
- Eastern **Queensland,** eastern **New South Wales** and **Tasmania** received between 0–50 millimetres of rainfall, while eastern **Victoria** received between 0–25 millimetres.
- **South Australia**, southern **Western Australia**, and central inland regions of Australia recorded little to no rainfall over the period.

Rainfall totals were generally low across cropping regions:

- Southern cropping regions received little to no rainfall. This included much of **Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria**, **New South Wales**, and southern **Queensland** which received between 0–10 millimetres.
- Parts of northern and south-western **Queensland** recorded slightly higher rainfall totals, with falls between 10–50 millimetres recorded across some regions.
- Despite the lack of rainfall across many summer cropping areas, most areas remain on track to record above average yield due to close to average soil moisture levels for this time of year.

Rainfall for the week ending 29 January 2025



 Issued: 29/1/2025

Note: The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archive for Meteorology (ADAM). The analyses are initially produced automatically from real-time data with limited quality control. They are intended to provide a general overview of rainfall across Australia as quickly as possible after the observations are received. For further information go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/rainfall/

1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

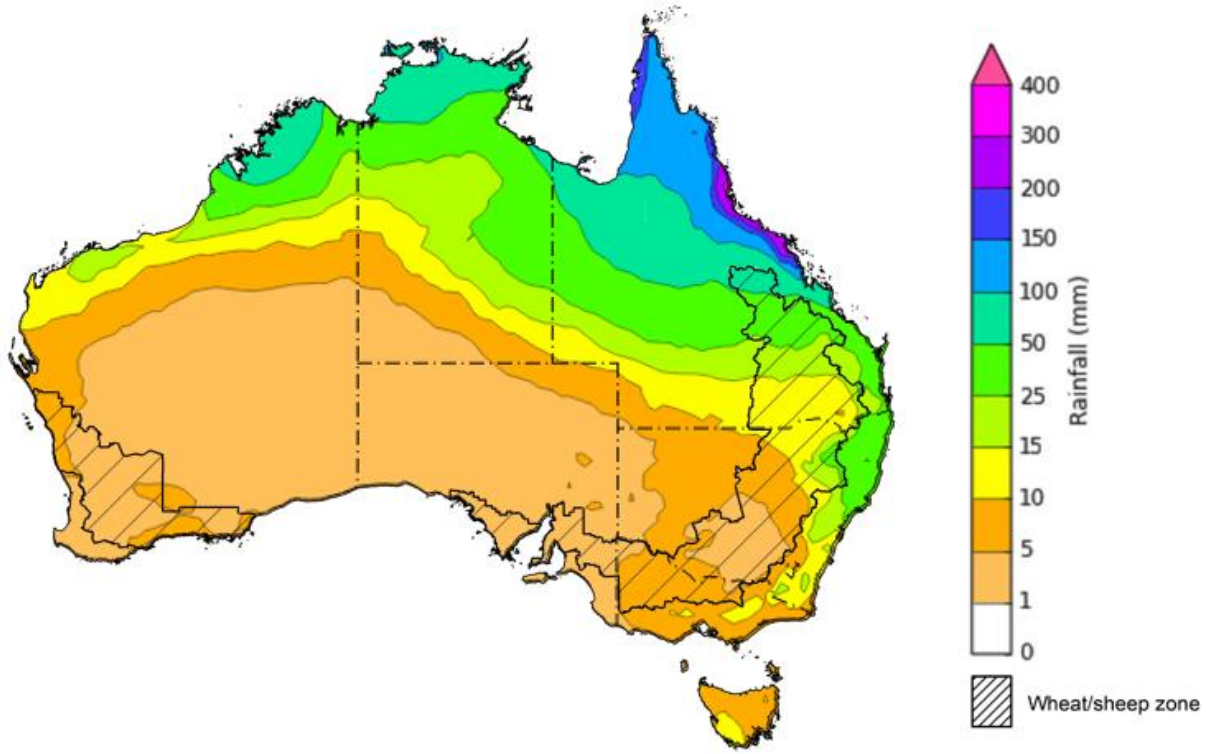
Over the 8 days to 6 February 2025, **tropical lows and troughs are expected to bring rainfall and storms over the east and north** of Australia:

- Falls between 10–100 millimetres are likely for much of northern **Western Australia**, and the **Northern Territory**. In northern **Queensland**, falls are expected to be higher, between 50 to 300 millimetres.
- Between 5–50 millimetres are forecast for much of **New South Wales** and southern **Queensland,** with falls between 5–15 expected in **Victoria** and **Tasmania**.
- By contrast, a **high-pressure system is expected to keep much of the remainder of the south and interior of Australia largely dry**, including **South Australia** and southern **Western Australia**

Rainfall forecasts across cropping regions over the coming week are mixed:

- Low rainfall totals are expected in **southern cropping regions**, including across much of Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, and southern and central New South Wales (between 1–10 millimetres).
- Higher rainfall is expected in **northern cropping regions**, with Queensland likely to receive between 10–100 millimetres. In northern New South Wales, falls between 10–50 millimetres are expected. Rainfall forecast for summer cropping regions in Queensland and New South Wales is likely to be sufficient to support average soil moisture levels and above average summer crop yield potentials.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 30 January to 6 February 2025



 Issued 30/1/2025
Note: This rainfall forecast is produced from computer models. As the model outputs are not altered by weather forecasters, it is important to check local forecasts and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

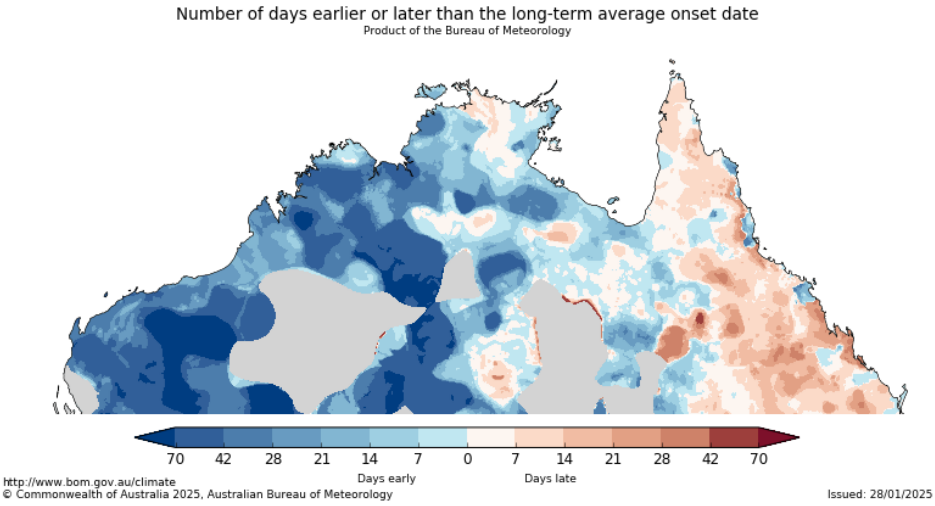
1.3. Northern Rainfall Onset

The timing of **northern rainfall onset** is an important indicator for seasonal pasture growth and potential livestock production. The rainfall onset indicates the accumulation of at least 50 millimetres of rainfall after 1 September to stimulate plant growth after the northern dry season.

The northern rainfall onset was achieved earlier than normal across large areas of northern Australia, despite record-late monsoon onset in 2024–25. Since 1 September 2024, large areas of northern Australia have received at least 50 millimetres of rainfall, and the northern rainfall onset was achieved early across northern parts of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and large areas of western Queensland.

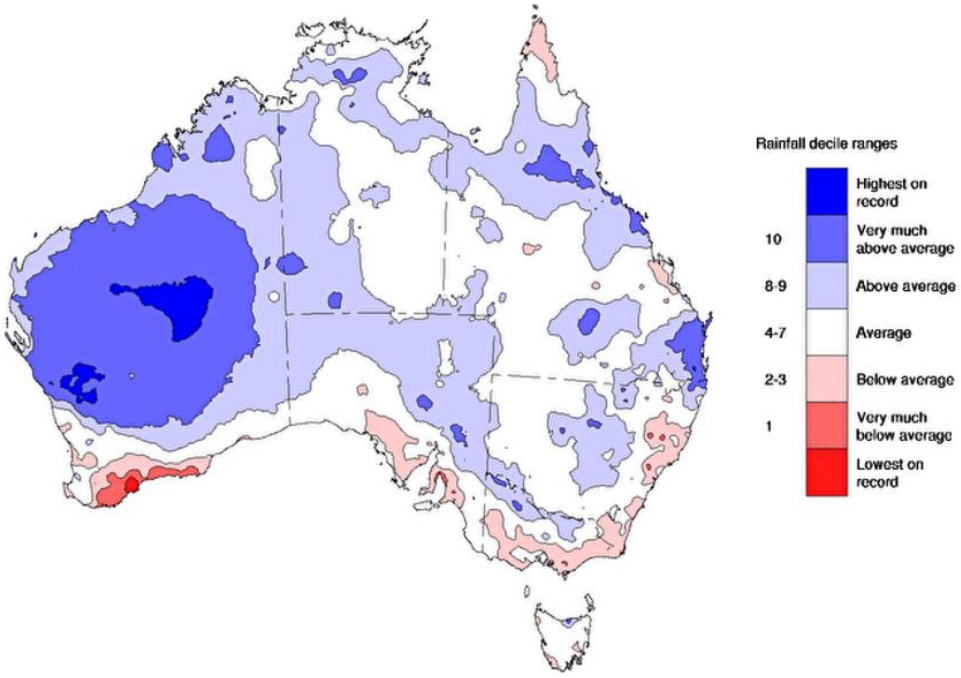
Despite the delayed onset of the northern monsoon, sufficient and timely rainfall has been recorded across much of northern Australia, likely stimulating and supporting pasture production across many northern grazing regions.

Number of days earlier or later than the long-term average onset date



This is further supported by analysis of rainfall deciles between October-December 2024 which record average to above average rainfall across much of northern Australia. Isolated areas of Queensland saw below average rainfall over the period.

Rainfall deciles for the period 1 October to 31 December 2024



Source: Bureau of Meteorology, issued 21/01/25

2. Water

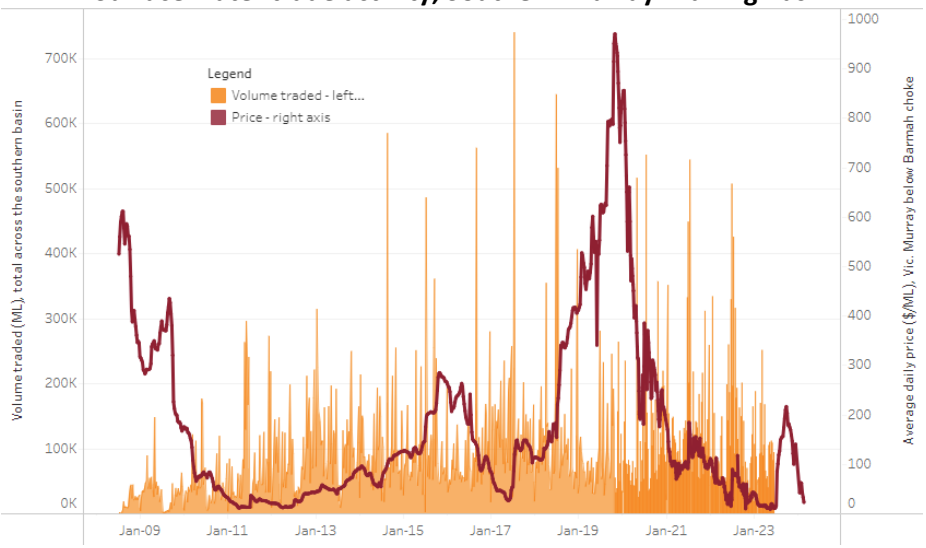
2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from $156 on 23 January to $159 on 30 January. Prices are lower in regions above the Barmah choke due to the binding of the Barmah choke trade constraint.

Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2024

Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from $156 on 23 January to $159 on 30 January. Prices are lower in regions above the Barmah choke due to the binding of the Barmah choke trade constraint.

Surface water trade activity, Southern Murray–Darling Basin



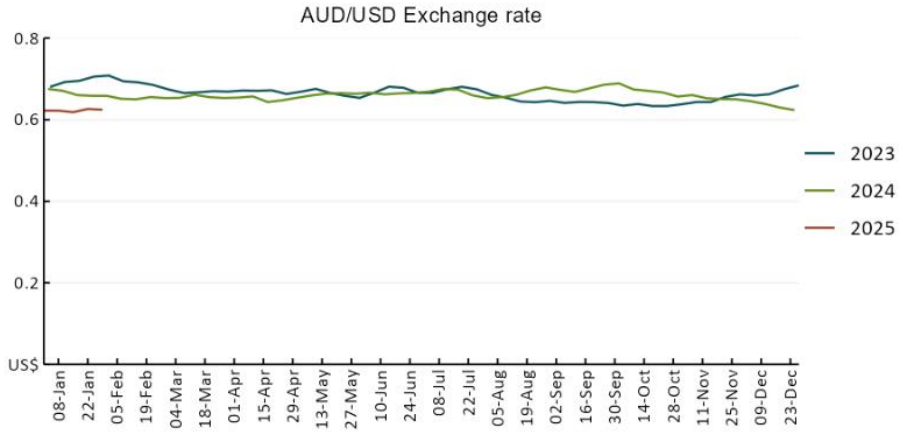
The trades shown reflect estimated market activity and do not encompass all register trades. The price is shown for the VIC Murray below the Barmah choke. Historical prices (before 1 July 2019) are ABARES estimates after removing outliers from BOM water register data. Prices after 1 July 2019 and prior to the 30 October 2019 reflect recorded transaction prices as sourced from Ruralco. Prices after the 30 October 2019 are sourced from Waterflow. Data for volume traded is sourced from the BOM water register. Only the price data shown is current on 17 October 2024.

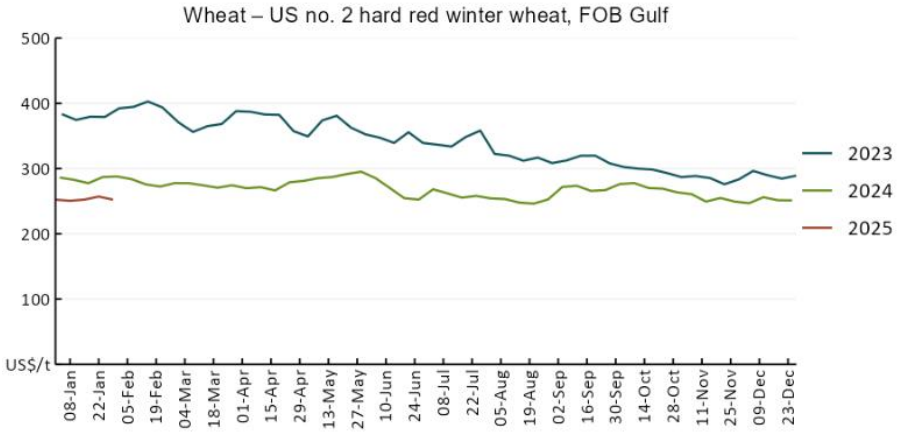
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-300124

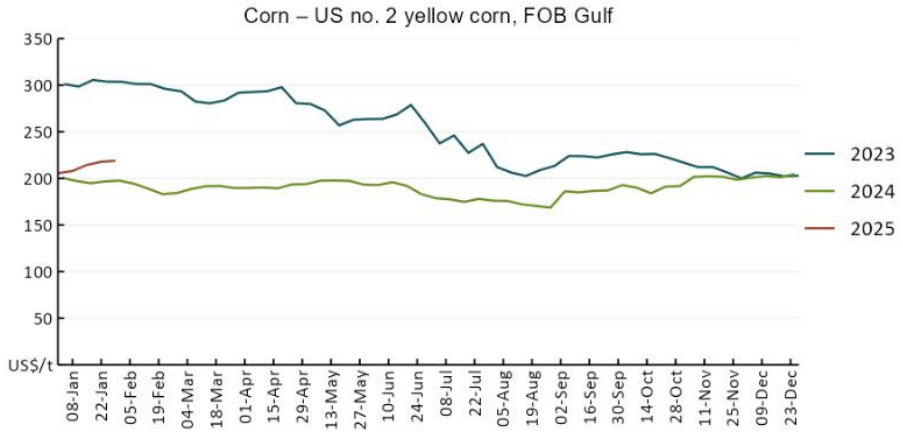
3. Commodities

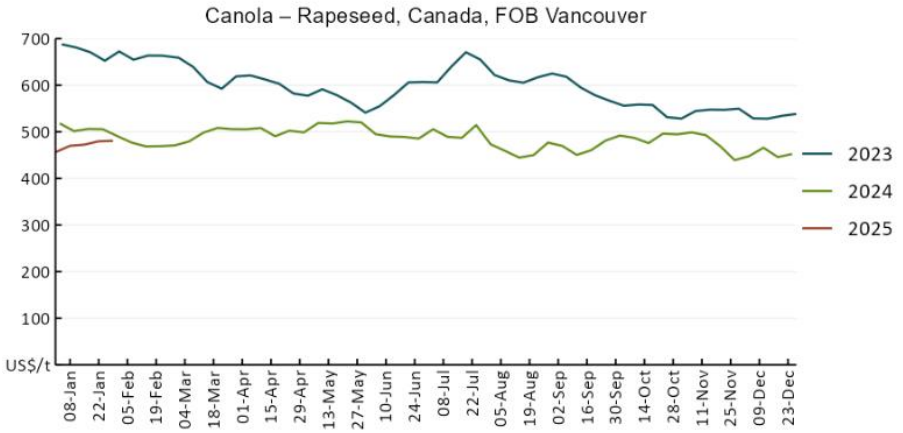
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	29-Jan	A$/US$	0.62	0.63	0%	0.66	-6%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	29-Jan	US$/t	252	257	-2%	284	-11%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	29-Jan	US$/t	219	218	1%	197	11%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	29-Jan	US$/t	481	480	0%	505	-5%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	29-Jan	USc/lb	78	78	1%	92	-15%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	29-Jan	USc/lb	19	18	9%	22	-14%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	22-Jan	Ac/kg clean	1,186	1,190	0%	1,192	0%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	22-Jan	Ac/kg clean	1,325	1,339	-1%	1,312	1%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	29-Jan	A$/t	403	404	0%	444	-9%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	29-Jan	A$/t	393	394	0%	422	-7%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	29-Jan	A$/t	367	365	0%	375	-2%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	29-Jan	A$/t	844	854	-1%	742	14%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	29-Jan	A$/t	410	408	1%	478	-14%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	29-Jan	Ac/kg cwt	666	692	-4%	618	8%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	29-Jan	Ac/kg cwt	345	350	-1%	263	31%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	29-Jan	Ac/kg cwt	789	790	0%	740	7%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	08-Jan	Ac/kg cwt	454	454	0%	408	11%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	25-Dec	Ac/kg lwt	350	350	0%	298	17%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	22-Jan	US$/t	3,988	3,804	5%	3,322	20%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	22-Jan	US$/t	2,729	2,682	2%	2,626	4%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	22-Jan	US$/t	4,846	4,728	2%	4,191	16%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	22-Jan	US$/t	6,616	7,169	-8%	5,719	16%

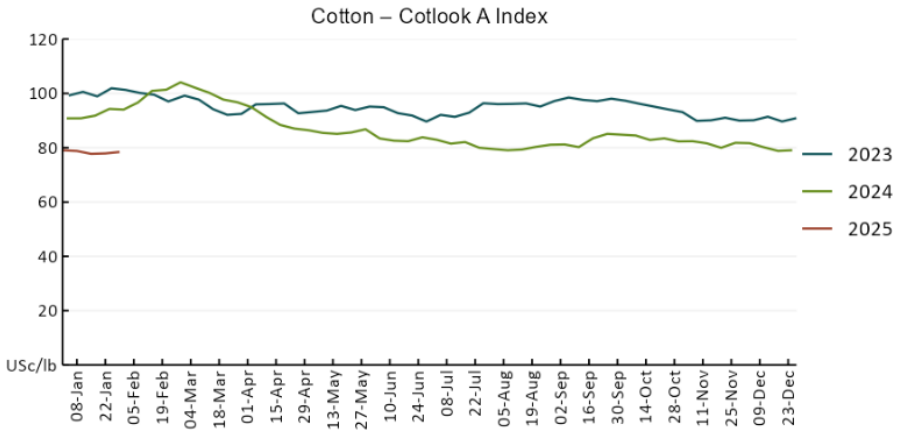
3.1. Selected world indicator prices

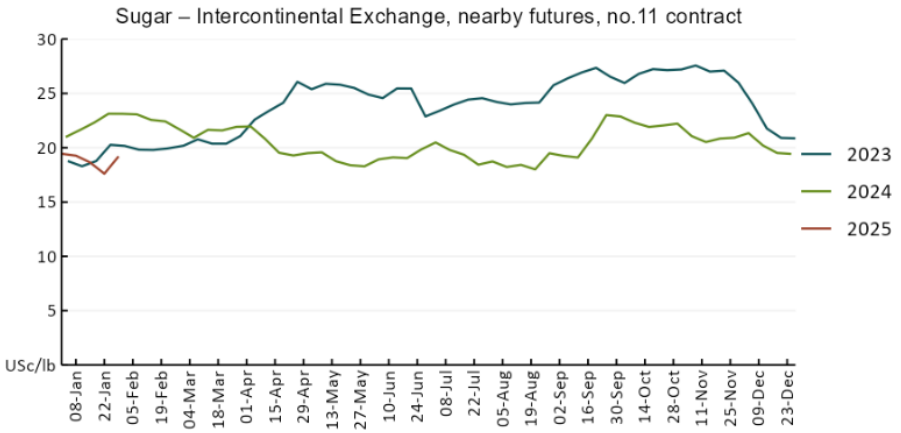









Cotton – Cotlook A Index
120
100
80
60
40
20
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec
2023
2024
2025


Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract
30
25
20
15
10
5
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
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30-Sep
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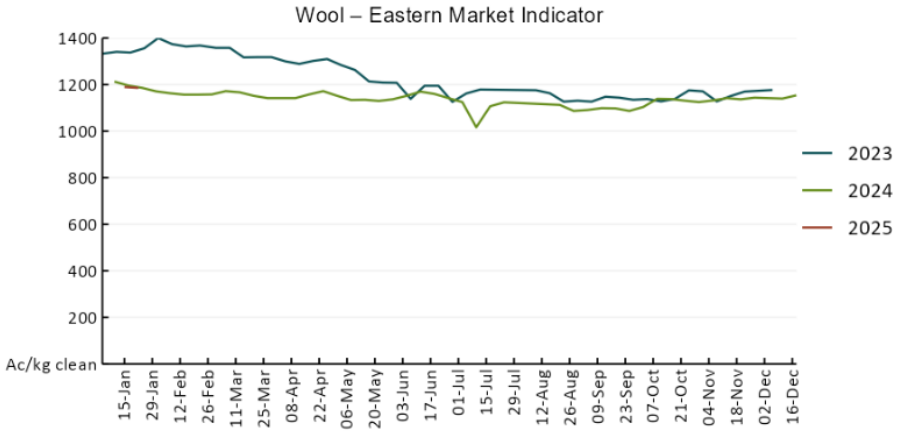
2025


Wool – Eastern Market Indicator
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
Ac/kg clean
15-Jan
29-Jan
12-Feb
26-Feb
11-Mar
25-Mar
08-Apr
22-Apr
06-May
20-May
03-Jun
17-Jun
01-Jul
15-Jul
29-Jul
12-Aug
26-Aug
09-Sep
23-Sep
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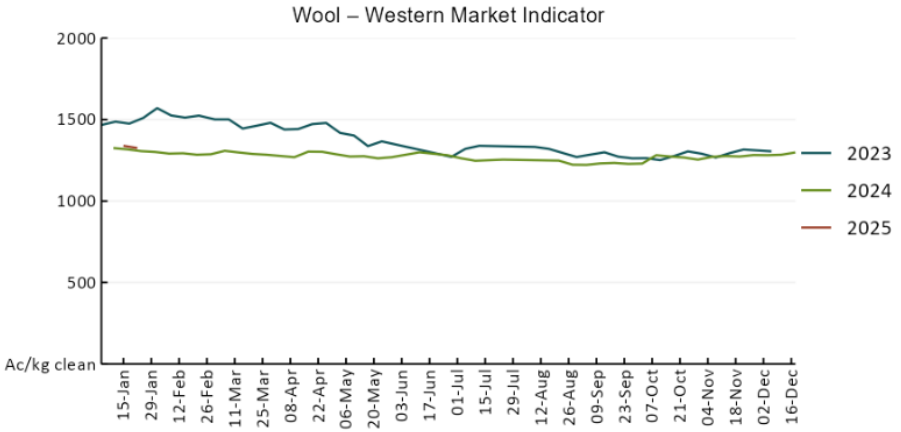
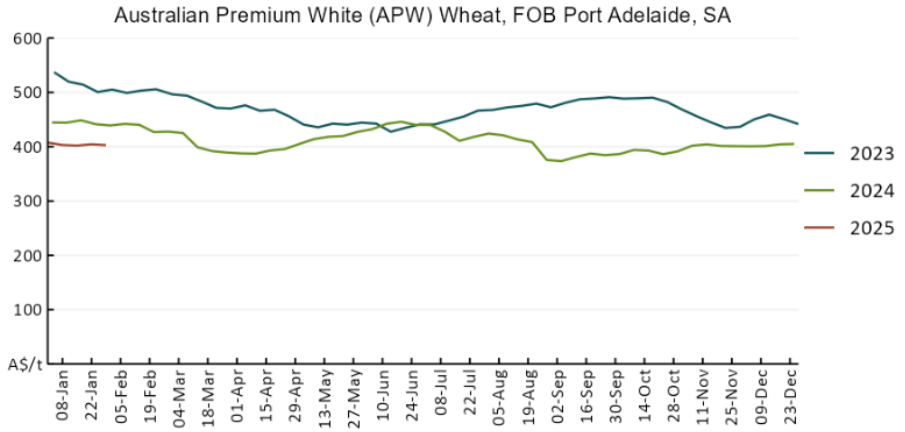
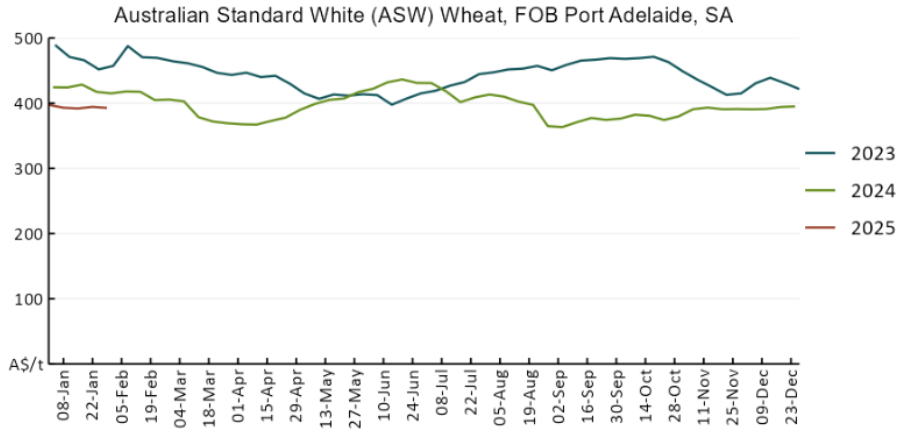
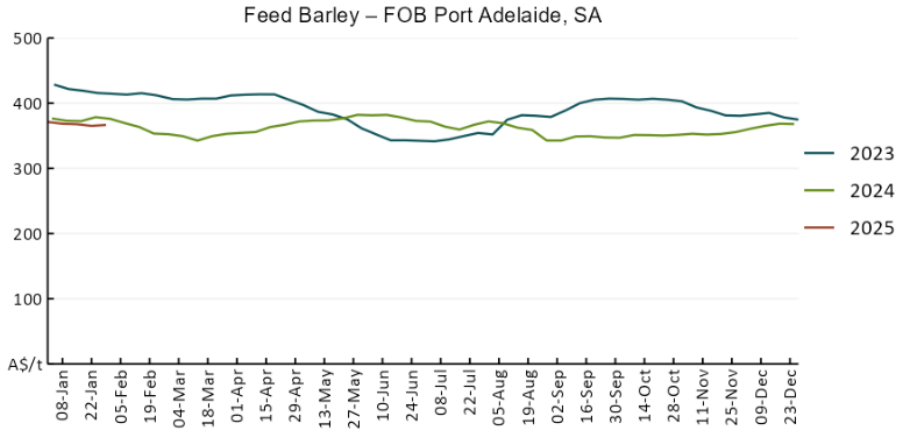
2024
2025

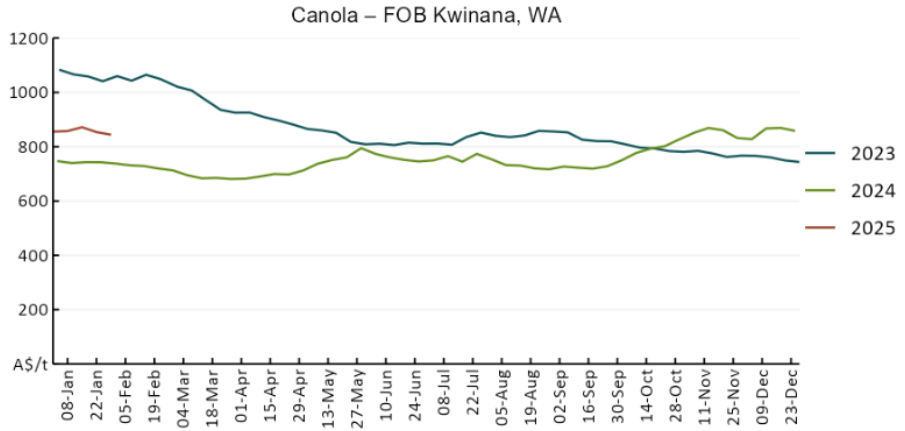

Wool – Western Market Indicator
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
15-Jan
29-Jan
12-Feb
26-Feb
11-Mar
25-Mar
08-Apr
22-Apr
06-May
20-May
03-Jun
17-Jun
01-Jul
15-Jul
29-Jul
12-Aug
26-Aug
09-Sep
23-Sep
07-Oct
21-Oct
04-Nov
18-Nov
02-Dec
16-Dec
2023
2024
2025

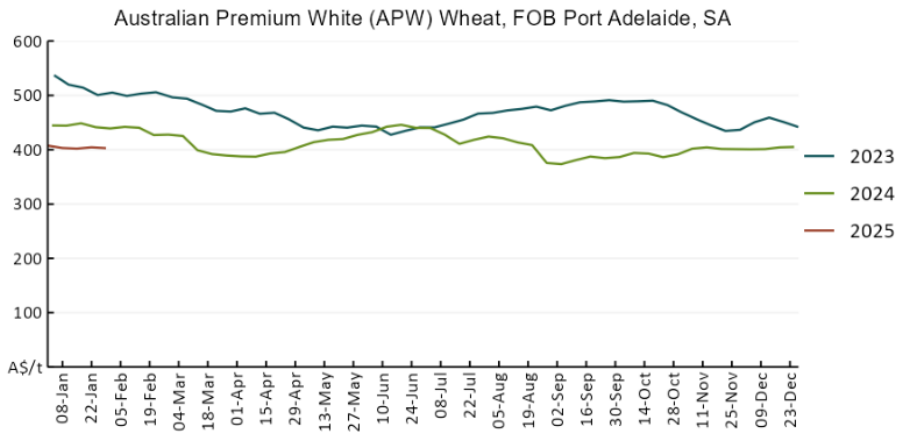
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices










Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA
600
500
400
300
200
100
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
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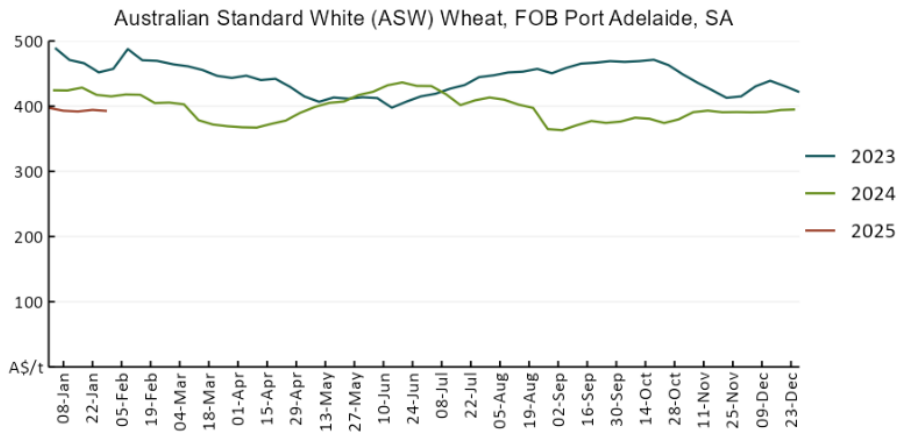
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA
500
400
300
200
100
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
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13-May
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24-Jun
08-Jul
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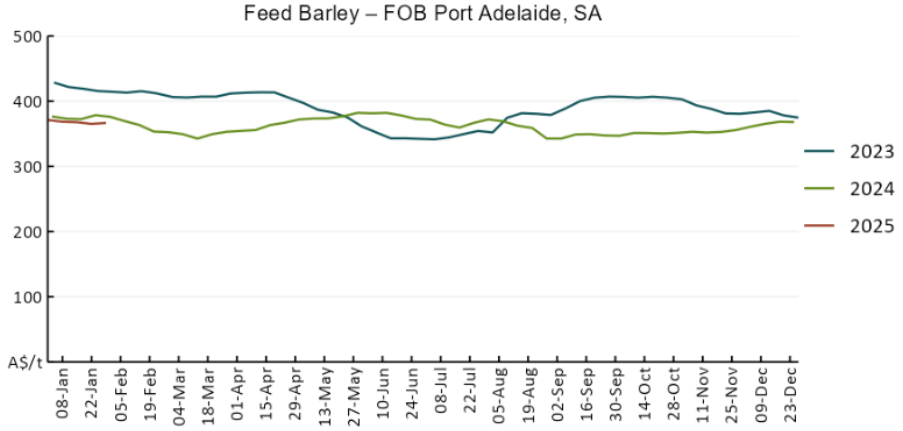
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA
500
400
300
200
100
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
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18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
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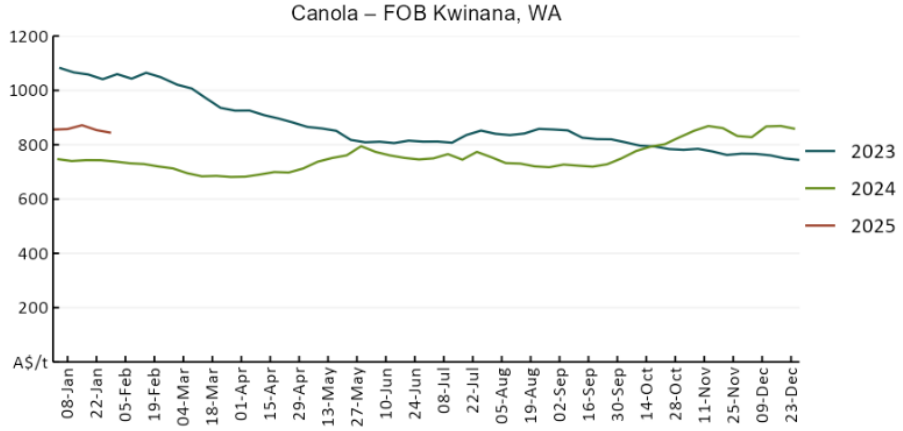
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
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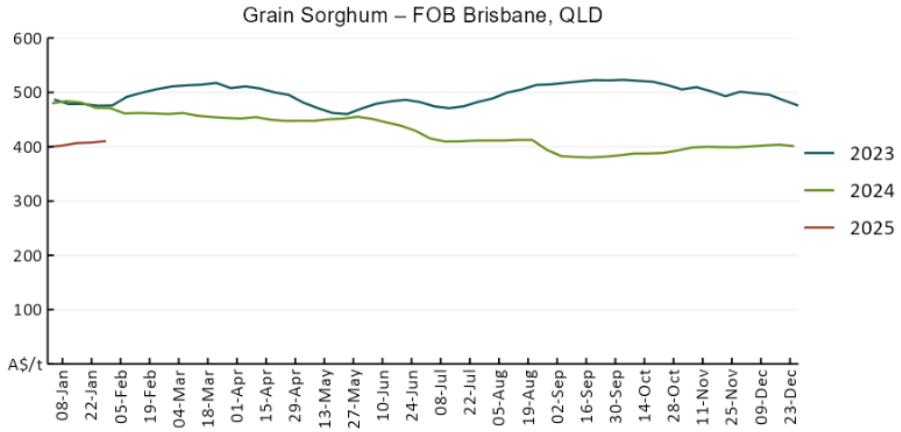
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD
600
500
400
300
200
100
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
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23-Dec
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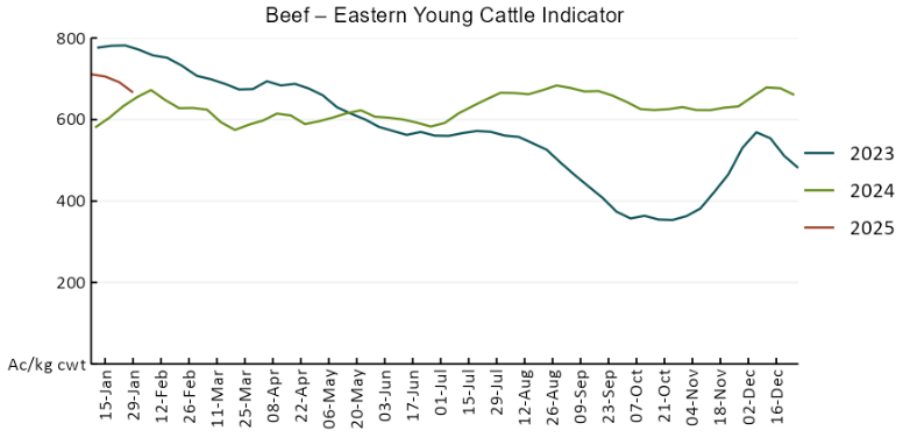
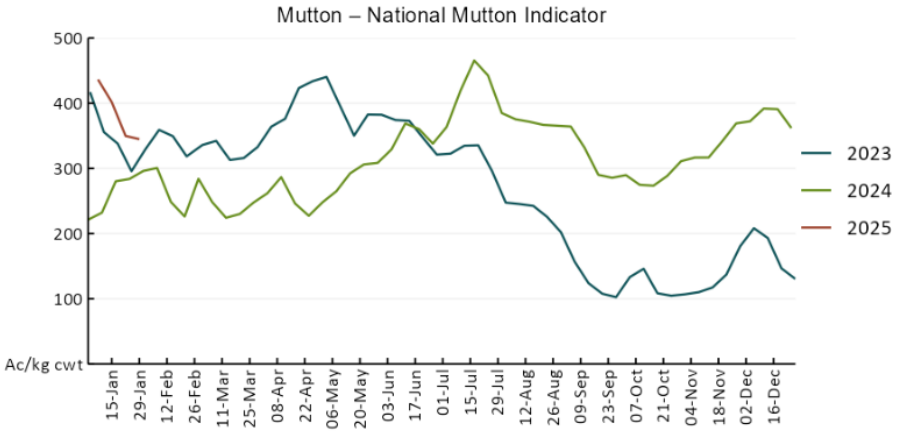
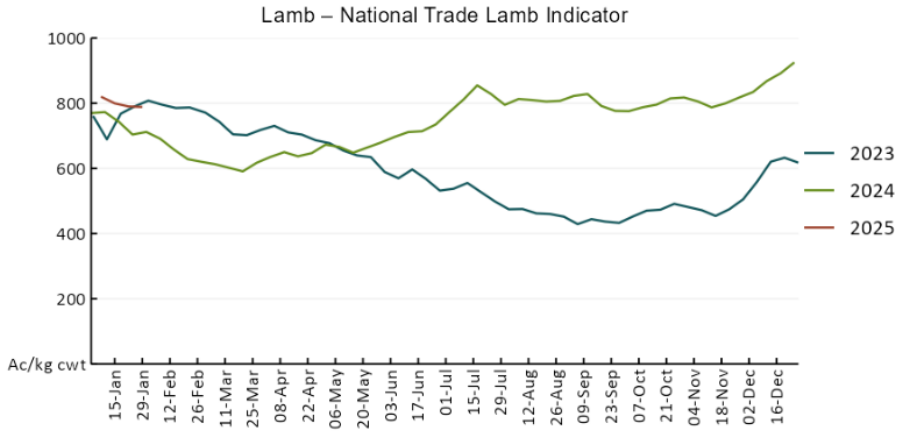
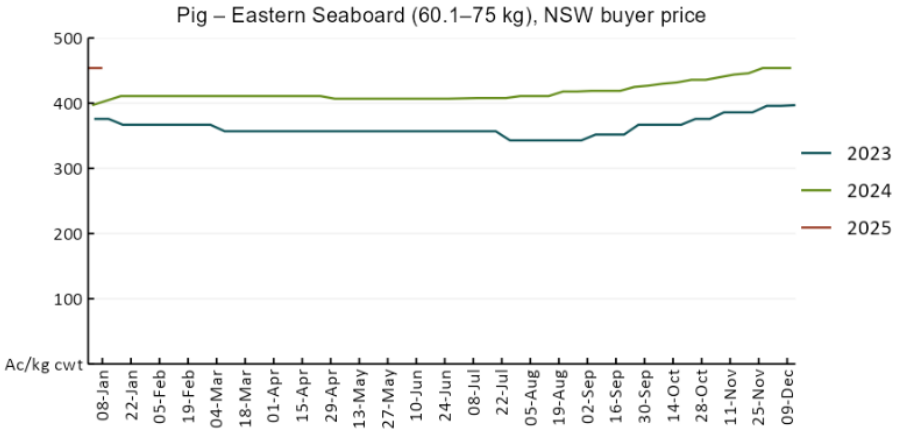
2024
2025

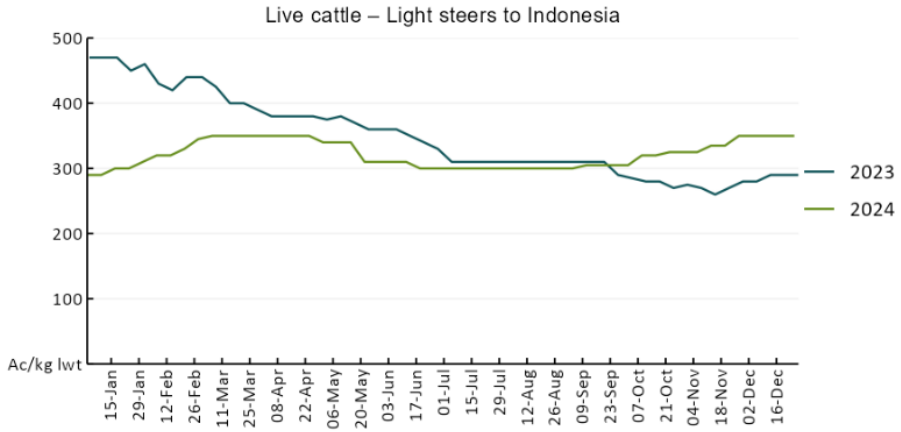
3.3. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices



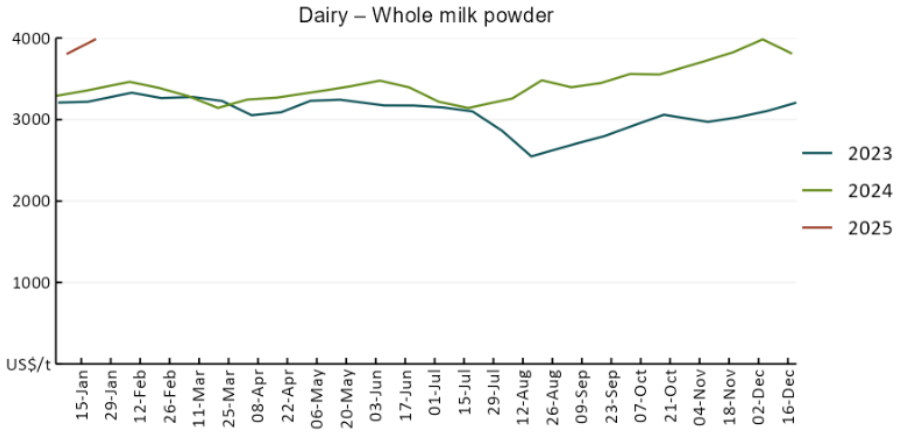


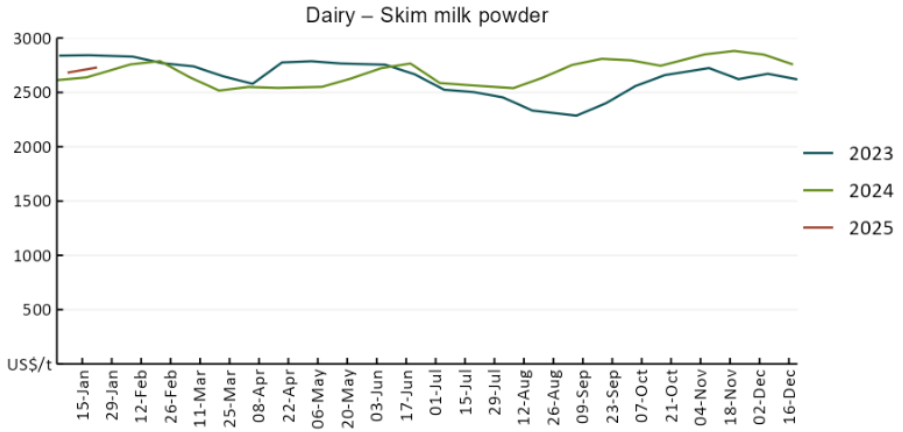


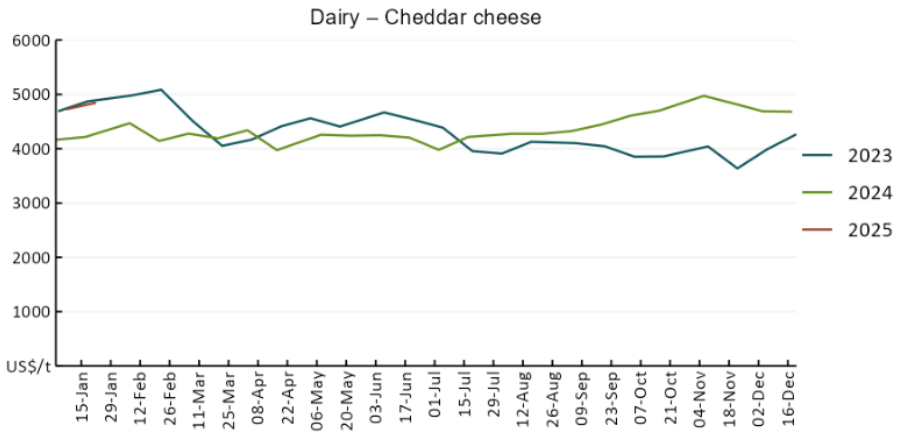


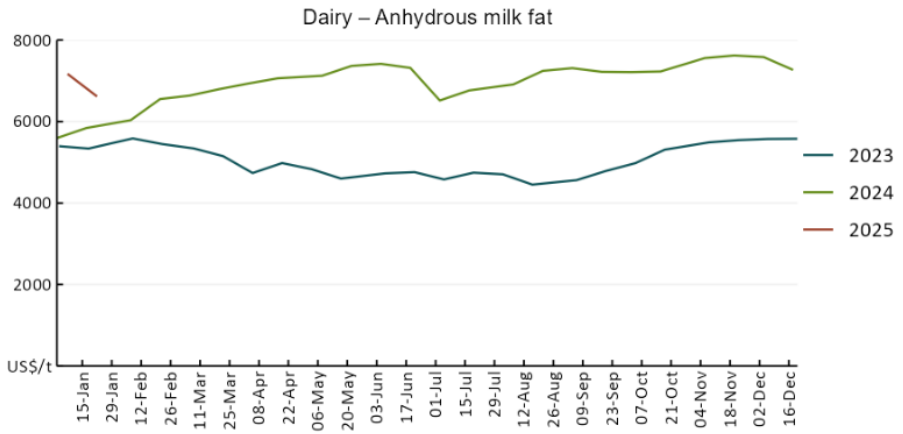

Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia
500
400
300
200
100
Ac/kg lwt
15-Jan
29-Jan
12-Feb
26-Feb
11-Mar
25-Mar
08-Apr
22-Apr
06-May
20-May
03-Jun
17-Jun
01-Jul
15-Jul
29-Jul
12-Aug
26-Aug
09-Sep
23-Sep
07-Oct
21-Oct
04-Nov
18-Nov
02-Dec
16-Dec
2023
2024

3.4. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

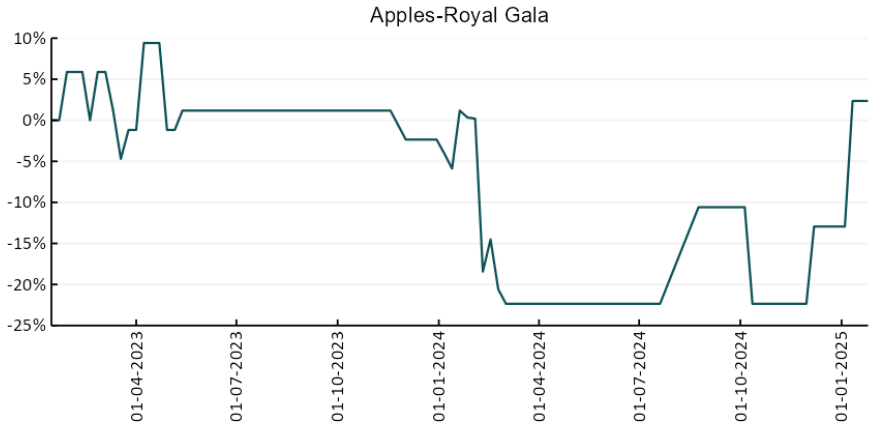


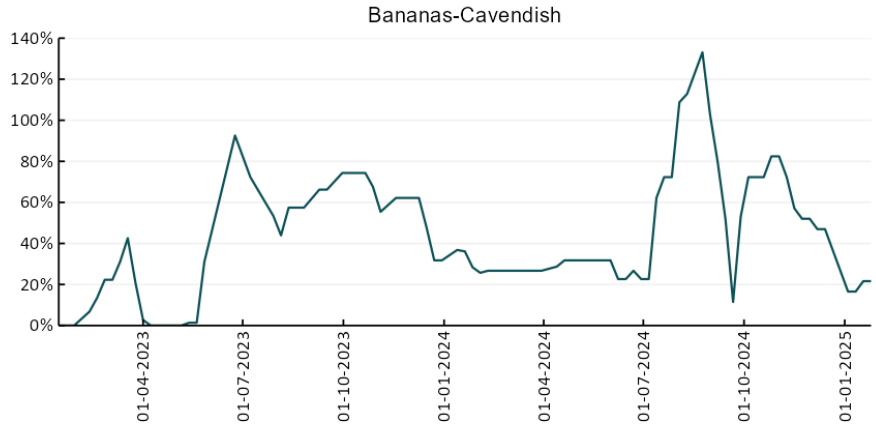


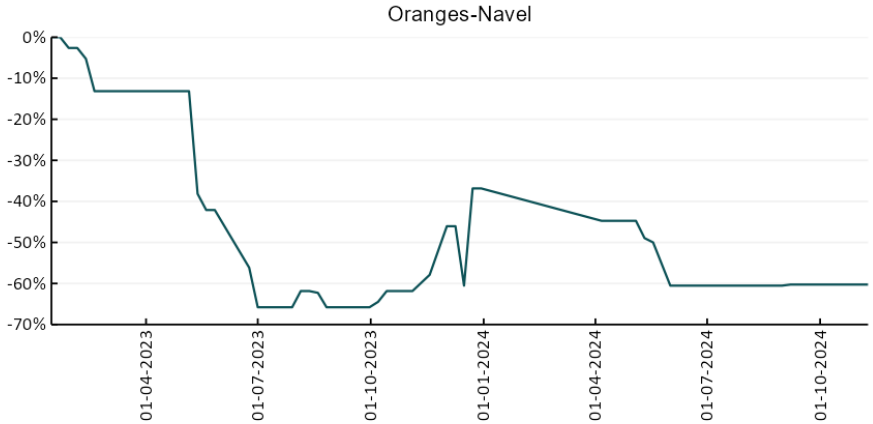


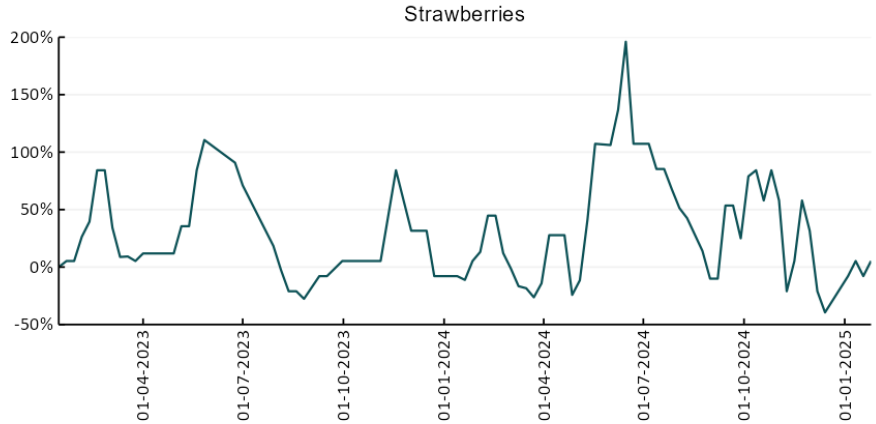


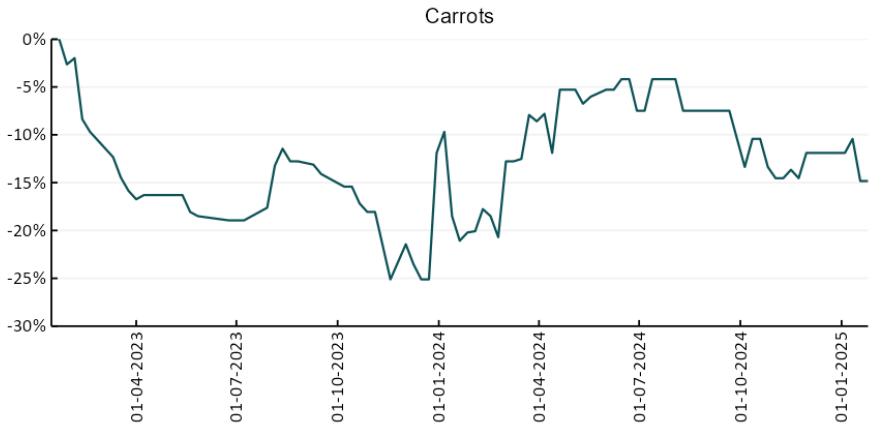
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices

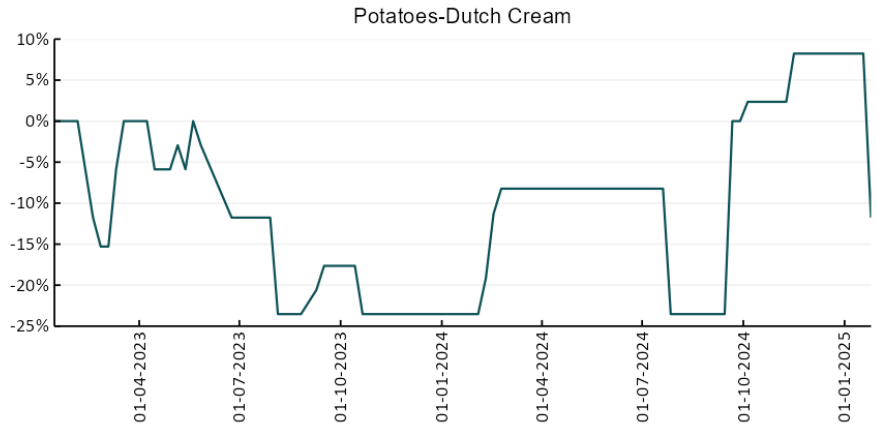


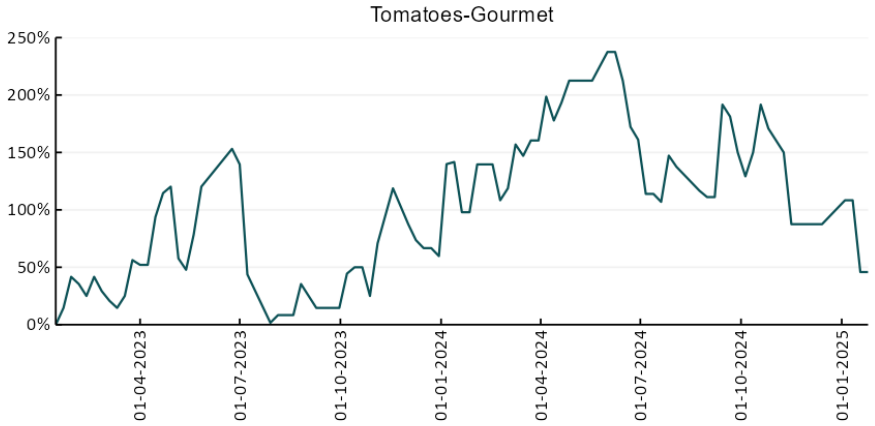


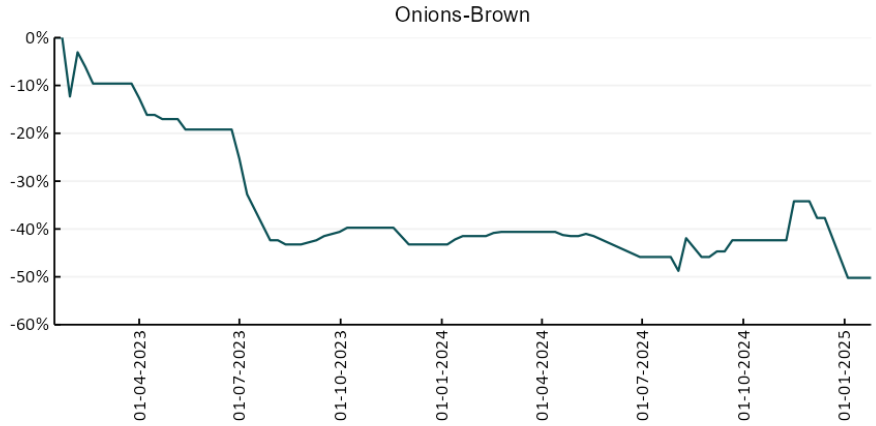




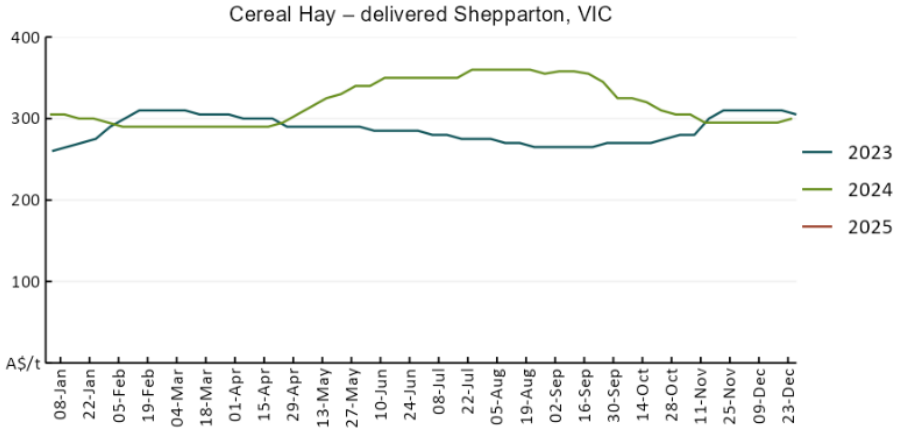

Carrots
0%
-5%
-10%
-15%
-20%
-25%
-30%
01-04-2023
01-07-2023
01-10-2023
01-01-2024
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025

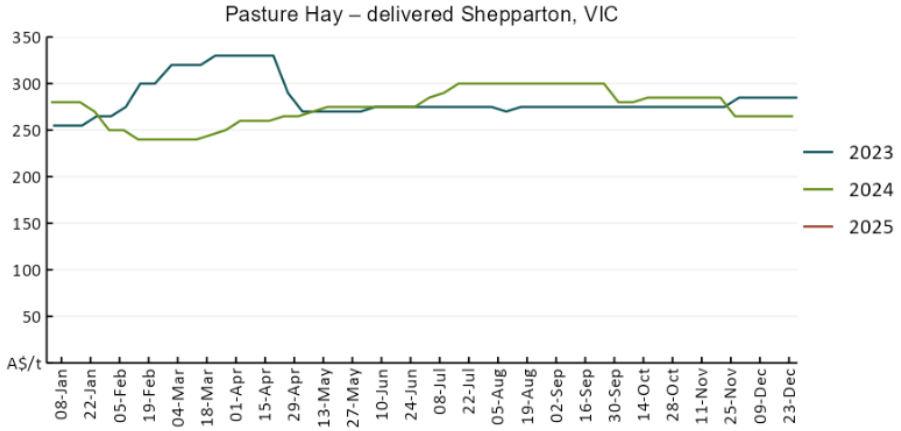

Potatoes-Dutch Cream
10%
5%
0%
-5%
-10%
-15%
-20%
-25%
01-04-2023
01-07-2023
01-10-2023
01-01-2024
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025

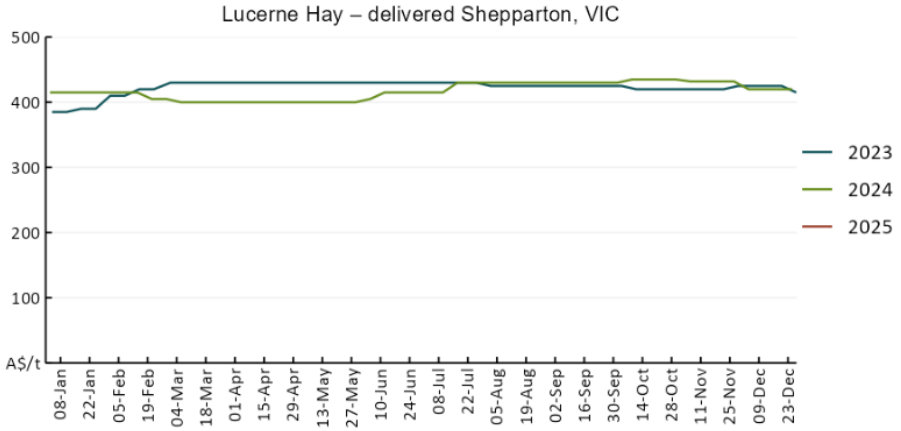

Tomatoes-Gourmet
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
01-04-2023
01-07-2023
01-10-2023
01-01-2024
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025


Onions-Brown
0%
-10%
-20%
-30%
-40%
-50%
-60%
01-04-2023
01-07-2023
01-10-2023
01-01-2024
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025

3.6 Selected domestic fodder indicator prices







4. Data attribution

Climate

- Bureau of Meteorology
- Weekly rainfall totals: www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/
- Monthly and last 3-month rainfall percentiles: www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/
- Temperature anomalies: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp
- Rainfall forecast: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp
- Seasonal outlook: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/
- Climate drivers: http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/
- Soil moisture: www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/
    - Other
- Pasture growth: www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/
- 3-month global outlooks: Environment and Climate Change Canada, NOAA Climate Prediction Center, EUROBRISA CPTEC/INPE, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, Hydrometcenter of Russia, National Climate Center Climate System Diagnosis and Prediction Room (NCC), International Research Institute for Climate and Society
- Global production: https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/ogamaps/cropmapsandcalendars.aspx
- Autumn break: Pook et al., 2009, https://rmets-onlinelibrary-wiley-com.virtual.anu.edu.au/doi/epdf/10.1002/joc.1833

Water

Prices

- Waterflow: https://www.waterflow.io/
- Ruralco: https://www.ruralcowater.com.au/
    - Bureau of Meteorology:
- Allocation trade: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-markets/mdb/at
- Storage volumes: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/summary/drainage
    - Trade constraints:
- Water NSW: https://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/ordering-trading-and-pricing/trading/murrumbidgee
- Victorian Water Register: https://www.waterregister.vic.gov.au/TradingRules2019/

Commodities

- Fruit and vegetables
- Datafresh: www.freshstate.com.au
    - Pigs
- Australian Pork Limited: www.australianpork.com.au
    - Dairy
- Global Dairy Trade: www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/
    - World wheat, canola
- International Grains Council
    - World coarse grains
- United States Department of Agriculture
    - World cotton
- Cotlook: www.cotlook.com/
    - World sugar
- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange
    - Wool
- Australian Wool Exchange: www.awex.com.au/
    - Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum, canola and fodder
- Jumbuk Consulting Pty Ltd: http://www.jumbukag.com.au/
    - Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export
- Meat and Livestock Australia: www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-market

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