



CROP ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

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EMBARGO: 14:00

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THE FINAL AREA PLANTED AND CROP FIGURES OF WINTER CEREALS FOR THE 2008 PRODUCTION SEASON

At a meeting held on 7 May 2009, which was chaired by a member of the National Agricultural Marketing Council, the Crop Estimates Liaison Committee oversaw the process for the finalisation of the crop sizes of wheat, malting barley and canola for the 2008 production season.

The estimated production figure for wheat was revised, using the published figures of SAGIS of actual deliveries as the basis for the calculation. The figures from the wheat utilisation survey to determine on-farm usage and retentions, which was conducted by the Directorate: Agricultural Statistics of the Department of Agriculture, were added to the SAGIS figures to calculate the total size of the crop.

Comparing the numbers set by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) during February 2009, with the final calculated crop figures, the figure for wheat was estimated slightly lower (1,9%) than the final crop figure of 2,13 mill. tons. With regard to the malting barley and canola crops, these crops were over-estimated by 1,2% and 4,9%, respectively.

The final calculated crop production figures are attached. A schedule containing the split between dry land and irrigation areas planted to wheat for the 2008 production season, is also attached.

The CEC would like to thank all producers and industry role-players who provide information on a regular basis to improve the accuracy of the crop estimates. Producers who do not participate in the Department's monthly survey, are requested as a matter of urgency to make an effort to make a contribution to the crop estimation process.

This information is also available on the Internet at http://www.doa.agric.za/links/crop_estimates or <http://www.sagis.org.za/CEC>: Crop Estimates.

FINAL AREA PLANTED AND CROP FIGURES OF WINTER CEREALS FOR THE 2008 PRODUCTION SEASON

CROP	FINAL AREA PLANTED 2008 HA (A)	FINAL CROP 2008 TONS (B)
Wheat	748 000	2 130 000
Malting barley	68 245	192 000
Canola	34 000	30 800

THE CALCULATION OF THE FINAL WINTER CEREAL CROPS FOR THE 2008 PRODUCTION SEASON IS AS FOLLOWS:

CROP	Producer deliveries reported by SAGIS ¹⁾ (Oct 2008 - March 2009)	Estimated future deliveries (April – Sept 2009)	Retentions on farms for own use	Final crop
	Tons			
Wheat	2 054 304	33 696	42 000 ²⁾	2 130 000
Malting barley	188 885	1 195	1 920	192 000
Canola	30 468	24	308	30 800

- 1) SAGIS deliveries relate to the current crop.
- 2) Based on a survey undertaken by the Directorate: Agricultural Statistics of the Department of Agriculture.

WHEAT: SPLIT BETWEEN DRY LAND AND IRRIGATION AREA PLANTED FOR THE 2008 PRODUCTION SEASON

Province	Dry land	Irrigation	Total	Dry land	Irrigation
	Hectares			Percentage	
Western Cape	347 200	2 800	350 000	99,2	0,8
Northern Cape	2 500	47 500	50 000	5,0	95,0
Free State	240 000	40 000	280 000	85,7	14,3
Eastern Cape	3 575	1 925	5 500	65,0	35,0
KwaZulu-Natal	450	7 050	7 500	6,0	94,0
Mpumalanga	500	7 500	8 000	6,2	93,8
Limpopo	3 000	17 000	20 000	15,0	85,0
Gauteng	300	1 700	2 000	15,0	85,0
North West	2 475	22 525	25 000	9,9	90,1
Total	600 000	148 000	748 000	80,2	19,8