

## CHAPTER 2 – Agricultural profile of Beaudesert Shire

### Introduction

The following agricultural profile includes information on the agricultural commodities produced in the Beaudesert Shire (pastures and grasses, crops, livestock, and livestock products) and information on agricultural practices (cultivation techniques, treatment of stubble, fertiliser use, and soil conditioner use).

An estimate of the number of agricultural establishments in the Beaudesert Shire at June 2001 was 574.

### Commodities

#### Pastures and grasses

Native or naturalised pastures in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 represented 91.9% of the total pastures and grasses in the Shire and 5% of all agricultural holdings in the South East Queensland NRM region. Sown pastures represented only 5.6% of the total pastures and grasses in the shire and 0.3% of all agricultural holdings in the South East Queensland NRM region, and pastures cut for hay represented 2.5% of all pastures and grasses in the shire and 0.1% of all agricultural holdings in the region. Pastures cut for hay represented 5% of the total volume of pastures cut for hay in Queensland.

**Table 2.1: Volume and value of pastures and grasses, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Pastures and grasses	Volume		Area		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total		
	t '000	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	Vol	Area	Value	
Pastures cut for hay	13	2	0.1%	2,252	0%	5%	4%	4%	
Sown pastures	N/A	5	0.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1%	N/A	
Native or naturalised pasture	N/A	81	5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	

N/A – Not Applicable

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

#### Crops

The data presented in Table 2.2 below shows that vegetables (\$20.9m) produced the highest value of production in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01. Fruit and nuts (\$3.8m) produced the second highest value of production in the shire. Vegetables produced in the Beaudesert shire represented 2.3% of the total agricultural value in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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**Table 2.2: Volume and value of crops, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Crops	Volume		Area		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total		
	t '000	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	Vol	Area	Value	
Cereals for grain	2	1	0%	361	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Crops for hay	1	0.2	0%	N/A	N/A	1%	0%	N/A	
Soybeans	0.6	0.3	0%	279	0%	4%	2%	4%	
Sugar Cane	8	0.1	0%	175	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Fruit and nuts	N/A	0.3	0%	3,862	0.4%	N/A	1%	1%	
Vegetables	N/A	0.2	0%	20,928	2.3%	N/A	1%	3%	
Total	11	2		25,605					

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

### Livestock

The highest value of production for slaughtered livestock in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 was for poultry (\$35.4m). The second highest value of production for slaughtered livestock in the Beaudesert Shire was produced by cattle and calves (\$25.8m). Poultry meat production in the Beaudesert Shire represented 22% of all poultry meat production in Queensland.

**Table 2.3: Volume and value of livestock, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Livestock	Number		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total	
	No. of stock '000	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	No.	Value	
Cattle & calves	83 <sup>a</sup>	25,894 <sup>b</sup>	3%	1%	1%	
Sheep & lambs	15	80 <sup>b</sup>	0.01%	0.2%	0%	
Pigs	4	1,434 <sup>b</sup>	0%	1%	1%	
Poultry	2,244	35,390 <sup>b</sup>	3.9%	22%	22%	

(a) The number of stock for cattle and calves includes the number of meat cattle and dairy cattle combined.

(b) These values represent the value of all slaughtered animals not the value of total livestock.

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

### Livestock products

The highest value of production from livestock products in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 came from cow's milk production (\$18.6m); wool production had the second highest value of production (\$0.2m). Cow's milk production in the Beaudesert Shire represented 2% of the total agricultural value in the South East Queensland NRM region and 8% of the total value of all cow's milk production in Queensland.

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**Table 2.4: Volume and value of livestock products, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Livestock Products	Volume		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total	
	Vol '000	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	Vol	Value	
Wool (t)	0.1	284	0%	0.2%	0.1%	
Cow milk production (L)	75,627	18,618	2%	9%	8%	
Eggs (dz)	0	1	0%	0%	0%	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBS).

## Agricultural practices

### Cultivation techniques

In the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 a total of 2103 ha was prepared for cultivation in 2000-01. This represented 7% of the total area of land prepared for cropping in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01. One or two cultivations were used on 34% of the land prepared for cropping, no cultivation was used on 27% of the land prepared for cropping in 2000-01, and other cultivation techniques were used on 39% of the land prepared for cropping in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01.

**Table 2.5: Cultivation technique, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Cultivation Technique	Area cultivated		Cultivation technique as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total area cultivated in region	Area
No cultivation	0.6	2%	0%
1 or 2 cultivations	0.7	2%	0%
Other cultivation technique	0.8	3%	0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBS).

### Treatment of stubble

The methods used to treat crop stubble in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 included ploughing the stubble into the soil (56%), mulching the stubble (20.7%), leaving the stubble intact (13.7%), and baling or grazing the stubble (7.6%). The area of stubble treated by ploughing the stubble into the soil in the Beaudesert Shire represented 4% of all such treatment of stubble in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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**Table 2.6: Treatment of stubble, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Treatment	Area treated		Stubble treatment as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total area treated in region	Area
Stubble ploughed into soil	1	4%	0%
Stubble mulched	0.3	1%	0%
Stubble left intact	0.2	1%	0%
Stubble removed by baling or heavy grazing	0.12	0%	0%
All other methods	0.03	0%	0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

### Fertiliser used

The volume of fertiliser used in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 represented 11.7% of the total amount of fertiliser used in the South East Queensland NRM region. Urea was the most common fertiliser used in the region in terms of both volume used and area treated.

Totals for hectares treated have not been included in Table 2.7; if more than one fertiliser was used on one hectare that hectare was counted twice in the agricultural census 2000-01, the total for hectares treated would therefore overestimate the number of hectares treated with fertiliser in the region.

**Table 2.7: Fertiliser used, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Fertiliser	Quantity used	Area treated	Fertiliser use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t	ha	Area	Vol
Urea	2257	5929	1%	1%
Ammonium Sulphate	53	403	1%	1%
Ammonium Nitrate	4	15	0%	0%
Single Superphosphate	295	1146	1%	2%
Double Superphosphate	23	92	1%	1%
Triple Superphosphate	8	62	0%	0%
Muriate of Potash	274	933	1%	1%
Potassium Sulphate	27	145	1%	0%
Potassium Nitrate	29	67	0%	1%
Mono Ammonium Phosphate	15	85	0%	0%
Di Ammonium Phosphate	38	175	0%	0%
Other	1395	2828	0%	1%
Total	4420			1%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

### Soil conditioner used

Most of the land in the Beaudesert Shire treated with soil conditioner in 2000-01 was treated for soil acidity (73.8%). Lime was the most common soil conditioner used to correct soil acidity (58.6%). Only 26.2% of land treated with soil conditioners in the region in 2000-01 was treated for physical soil problems, with gypsum being the most common soil conditioner used to treat physical soil problems (23%).

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**Table 2.8: Soil conditioner used, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Soil conditioner	Quantity used		Area treated		Soil conditioner use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t'000	ha'000	% of total ag. holdings in region	Area	Vol	
Lime - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.5	0.2	0.01%	1%	1%	
Dolomite - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.1	0.1	0%	1%	0%	
Dolomite - to correct physical soil problems	0.01	0.01	0%	0%	0%	
Gypsum - to correct physical soil problems	0.2	0.1	0%	0%	0%	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

### Area irrigated

The total area of agricultural holding for the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 was 743,358ha; of this area 6,839ha was irrigated, this represented 14.7% of the total area irrigated in the South East Queensland NRM region. The total area of holding of the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 represented 43% of the total area of agricultural holding for the entire South East Queensland NRM region. The total area irrigated in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 represented 1% of the total area irrigated in Queensland.

**Table 2.9: Area irrigated, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

	Area		Area irrigated as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	Area
Total area of holding	743	43.2%	1%
Irrigated - total area	7	14.7%	1%
Non-irrigated - total area	737	44.0%	1%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

### Natural resource management profile

#### Fencing to exclude grazing

The main reasons for the construction of fencing to exclude grazing in 2000-01 in the Beaudesert Shire included: the protection of undefined areas (57.7%), the protection of remnant native vegetation (21.8%), the protection of creeks and rivers (20.5%), and the protection of planted trees and shrubs (16.7%). The total length of fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 represented 10% of the total length of fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the whole of the South East Queensland NRM region.

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**Table 2.10: Fencing to exclude grazing, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Reason	Length		Fencing to exclude grazing as a percentage of Queensland total
	km	% of total length of fencing constructed in region in 2000-01	Length
To protect remnant native vegetation	17	2%	3%
To protect planted trees and shrubs	13	2%	3%
To protect creeks and rivers	16	2%	1%
To protect saline areas	1	0%	1%
To protect other degraded areas	4	1%	1%
To protect other areas	28	4%	1%
Total fencing for all reasons	78	10%	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

### Tree seedlings planted

Most of the tree seedlings planted in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 were planted to enhance production (47%). Other reasons included the production of timber and wood pulp (27.8%), for nature conservation (18.1%), and for the protection of land and water (7.1%). The number of seedlings planted to enhance production in the Beaudesert Shire in 2000-01 represented 2% of all seedlings planted in the South East Queensland NRM region for the enhancement of production, and 4% of all seedlings planted in Queensland for the enhancement of production.

**Table 2.11: Tree seedlings planted, Beaudesert Shire, 2000-01**

Purpose of Planting	Number planted		Area planted		Seedlings and trees planted as a percentage of Queensland total	
	No. '000	% of seedlings planted in region in 2000-01	ha	% of total ag. holdings in region	No.	Area
Seedlings planted for nature conservation	2	1%	10	0%	1%	1%
Seedlings planted for timber and wood pulp	3	1%	4	0%	1%	1%
Seedlings planted for enhanced production	5	2%	4,913	0%	4%	3%
Seedlings planted for protection of land and water	1	0%	5	0%	1%	1%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).