

CHAPTER 3 – Agricultural profile of Boonah Shire

Introduction

The following agricultural profile includes information on the agricultural commodities produced in the portion of the Boonah Shire that sits within the South East Queensland NRM region (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 holdings in the Boonah Shire at June 2001 was 397. This estimate was derived from the Agricultural Census 2000-01.

Commodities

Pastures and grasses

Pastures in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 were predominantly native or naturalised pastures (94.9%). Pastures cut for hay represented 2.9% of the total pastures in the shire in 2000-01 and sown pastures represented 2.3%. Pastures cut for hay in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 represented 7% of the total value of all pastures cut for hay in Queensland in 2000-01.

Table 3.1: Volume and value of pastures and grasses, Boonah 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	18	2	0.1%	3,484	0%	6%	4%	7%	
Sown pastures	N/A	2	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	
Native or naturalised pasture	N/A	72	4%	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 three main crops grown in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 in terms of value of production were vegetable crops (\$14.5m), cereals for grain (\$0.6m), and soybeans (\$0.5m). Soybeans grown in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 represented 8% of the total value of production for soybeans grown in Queensland.

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Table 3.2: Volume and value of crops, Boonah 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	3	1	0.1%	593	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Crops for hay	3	1	0%	N/A	N/A	2%	1%	N/A	
Soybeans	1.1	1	0%	531	0%	8%	5%	8%	
Fruit and nuts	N/A	0	0%	26	0%	N/A	0%	0%	
Vegetables	N/A	1	0.1%	14,578	2%	N/A	3%	2%	
Total	7								

N/A – Not Applicable

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

Livestock

The highest value of production for livestock in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 was from cattle and calves (\$36m), with the second highest value of production produced by meat poultry (\$1.4m). The value of slaughtered cattle and calves in the Boonah Shire represented 4% of the total value of agricultural production in the entire South East Queensland NRM region. The value of production for cattle and calves and meat poultry in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 represented 1% of the total value of production for these commodities in Queensland.

Table 3.3: Volume and value of livestock, Boonah 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	57 ^a	36,222 ^b	4%	1%	1%	
Sheep & lambs	0	3 ^b	0%	0%	0%	
Pigs	3	1,049 ^b	0%	0%	1%	
Poultry	131	1,409 ^b	0.0%	1%	1%	

(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 for livestock production in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 was from cow's milk production (\$7.6m), with the second highest value of production from eggs (\$0.3m). Cow's milk production in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 represented 1% of the total value of agricultural production in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01 and 3% of the total value of production of all cow's milk produced in Queensland.

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Table 3.4: Volume and value of livestock products, Boonah 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)	0.0	10	0%	0%	0%	
Cow milk production (L)	24,932	7,649	1%	3%	3%	
Eggs (dz)	187	285	0%	0%	0%	

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

Agricultural practices

Cultivation techniques

In total 2,614ha of land in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 was prepared for cropping. The main method of cultivation in the Shire was other cultivation techniques (52.4%), followed by 1 or 2 cultivations (39.7%), and no cultivation (8%). The total area of land prepared for cropping in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 represented 9% of the total area of land prepared for cropping in the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 3.5: Cultivation technique, Boonah 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	0.2	1%	0%
1 or 2 cultivations	1.0	3%	0.1%
Other cultivation technique	1.4	5%	0.2%

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

Treatment of stubble

The most common method of treating crop stubble in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 was ploughing the stubble into the soil (37.2%); the second most common method was the removal of stubble by baling and heavy grazing (29.9%). Stubble ploughed into the soil in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 represented 3% of all stubble treated in this way in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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Table 3.6: Treatment of stubble, Boonah 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	3%	0.1%
Stubble mulched	0.3	1%	0.1%
Stubble left intact	0.2	1%	0%
Stubble removed by hot burn	0.1	0%	0.4%
Stubble removed by cool burn	0.1	0%	0.2%
Stubble removed by baling or heavy grazing	1	2%	0.4%
All other methods	0.04	0%	0%

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

Fertiliser used

The volume of fertiliser used in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 represented 8% 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 3.7; 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 3.7: Fertiliser used, Boonah Shire, 2000-01

Fertiliser	Quantity used	Area treated	Fertiliser use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t	ha	Area	Vol
Urea	1366	2564	0%	1%
Ammonium Sulphate	85	313	1%	1%
Ammonium Nitrate	9	76	0%	0%
Single Superphosphate	394	577	1%	3%
Double Superphosphate	88	77	1%	5%
Triple Superphosphate	0	1	0%	0%
Muriate of Potash	120	417	0%	1%
Potassium Sulphate	52	233	1%	1%
Potassium Nitrate	57	6	0%	1%
Mono Ammonium Phosphate	19	29	0%	0%
Di Ammonium Phosphate	6	25	0%	0%
Other	782	2264	0%	0%
Total	2979			1%

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

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Soil conditioner used

Most of the land treated with soil conditioners in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 was treated to correct soil acidity (62.1%) with lime being the predominant soil conditioner used (61.9%). Gypsum (37.6%) was the main soil conditioner used to treat physical soil problems.

Table 3.8: Soil conditioner used, Boonah 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	0.3	0.1	0.01%	0%	0%
Dolomite - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.001	0.001	0%	0%	0%
Dolomite - to correct physical soil problems	0.001	0.001	0%	0%	0%
Gypsum - to correct physical soil problems	0.17	0.067	0%	0%	0%

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

Area irrigated

The total area of agricultural holding in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 was 135,321ha; of this area 5,268ha was irrigated, this represents 11.3% of the total area irrigated in the South East Queensland NRM region. The area of land irrigated in the Boonah Shire represents 1% of all the land irrigated in Queensland.

Table 3.9: Area irrigated, Boonah 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	135	8%	0%
Irrigated - total area	5	11.3%	1%
Non-irrigated - total area	130	7.8%	0%

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

Natural resource management profile

Fencing to exclude grazing

Reasons for the construction of fencing to exclude grazing in the Boonah Shire area in 2000-01 were for the protection of creeks and rivers (47.8%), the protection of planted trees and shrubs (30.4%), to protect saline areas (17.4%), and to protect other degraded areas (4.3%). Total fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the Shire in 2000-01 represented 3% of all fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01.

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Table 3.10: Fencing to exclude grazing, Boonah 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 planted trees and shrubs	7	1%	2%
To protect creeks and rivers	11	2%	1%
To protect saline areas	4	0%	2%
To protect other degraded areas	1	0%	0%
Total fencing for all reasons	23	3%	

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

Tree seedlings planted

Tree seedlings planted in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 were planted predominantly for timber and wood pulp (98.3%). Tree seedlings were also planted to enhance production (1.3%), to protect land and water (0.2%), and for other purposes (0.2%). The number of tree seedlings planted in the Boonah Shire in 2000-01 for timber and wood pulp represented 5% of all the tree seedlings planted for timber and wood pulp across Queensland in 2000-01.

Table 3.11: Tree seedlings planted, Boonah 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 timber and wood pulp	26	11%	16	0%	5%	3%
Seedlings planted for enhanced production	0.3	0.15%	342	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for protection of land and water	0.1	0.02%	14	0%	0%	2%
Seedlings planted for all other purposes	0.1	0.03%	1	0%	0%	0%

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