

CHAPTER 11 – Agricultural profile of Gatton Shire

Introduction

The following agricultural profile includes information on the agricultural commodities produced in Gatton 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 Gatton Shire at June 2001 was 347. This estimate was derived from the Agricultural Census 2000-01.

Commodities

Pastures and grasses

Native or naturalised pastures represented 86% of the pastures in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01, sown pastures represented 6.2% and pastures cut for hay represented 7.8%. Pastures and grasses in the Gatton Shire represented 1.4% of the total agricultural holdings for the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 11.1: Volume and value of pastures and grasses, Gatton 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	20.6	2.053	0%	4,126	0%	7%	4%	8%	
Sown pastures	N/A	1.651	0.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	
Native or naturalised pasture	N/A	23	1.3%	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

Vegetable crops (\$67.4m) produced the highest value of production for the Gatton Shire in 2000-01. Fruit and nuts (\$1.6m) produced the second highest value of production. Vegetables produced in the Gatton Shire represented a substantial 11% of the total value of vegetable crops in Queensland for 2000-01. Vegetable crops in the Gatton Shire also represented 7% of the total agricultural value in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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Table 11.2: Volume and value of crops, Gatton 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	1.421	0.54	0.0%	248	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Crops for hay	1.24	0.372	0.0%	N/A	N/A	1%	1%	N/A	
Soybeans	0.1	0	0.0%	24	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Fruit and nuts	N/A	0.28	0.0%	1,596	0%	N/A	1%	0%	
Vegetables	N/A	4.16	0.2%	67,409	7%	N/A	11%	11%	
Total	2.71	5.40		69,276					

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 Gatton Shire in 2000-01 was for cattle and calves (\$8.3m). The second highest value of production came from pig production (\$2.9m). The value of pig production in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01 represented 1.6% of the total value of pig production in Queensland for 2000-01.

Table 11.3: Volume and value of livestock, Gatton 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	18 ^a	8,343 ^b	0.9%	0.2%	0.3%	
Sheep & lambs	0	1 ^b	0%	0%	0%	
Pigs	8.35	2,922 ^b	0.3%	1.4%	1.6%	
Poultry	ND	39 ^b	0%	0%	0%	

ND – No data or insufficient data.

(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 products in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01 was from cow's milk production (\$1m). Eggs provided the second highest value of production (\$0.03m). The value of livestock products produced in the Gatton Shire did not represent a significant percentage of the total value of agriculture in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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Table 14.4: Volume and value of livestock products, Gatton 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	4	0%	0%	0%	
Cow milk production (L)	2,797	1,071	0.12%	0.32%	0.46%	
Eggs (dz)	20	31	0%	0.05%	0.05%	

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

Agricultural practices

Cultivation techniques

In total approximately 944ha of land was prepared for cropping in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01, this represents 3.1% of all land prepared for cropping in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01. One to two cultivations were used on 23.3% of the land prepared for cropping, no cultivation techniques were used on 1.5% of land prepared for cropping, and other cultivation techniques were used on 75.3% of land used for cropping. Cultivation techniques used in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01 did not represent a significant percentage of the cultivation techniques used across Queensland. This reflects the fact that only a small amount of cropping took place in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01.

Table 11.5: Cultivation technique, Gatton 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	0.01	0%	0%
1 or 2 cultivations	0.2	0.7%	0%
Other cultivation technique	0.7	2.4%	0%

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

Treatment of stubble

The most common method of treating crop stubble in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01 was by ploughing the stubble into the soil (62%), followed by removing stubble by heavy grazing or baling (34%), and lastly by mulching the stubble (3.7%). The treatment of stubble in the Gatton Shire did not represent a significant percentage of the treatment of stubble in the South East Queensland NRM region or Queensland, again reflecting the small amount of cropping that took place in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01.

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Table 11.6: Treatment of stubble, Gatton 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	0.4	2%	0%
Stubble mulched	0.03	0.1%	0%
Stubble removed by baling or heavy grazing	0.2	1%	0%

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

Fertiliser used

The volume of fertiliser used in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01 represented 7.2% of the total amount of fertiliser used in the whole of the South East Queensland NRM region. Urea was the most common fertiliser used in the Shire in terms of both volume used and area treated.

Totals for hectares treated have not been included in Table 11.7 below; 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 11.7: Fertiliser used, Gatton Shire, 2000-01

Fertiliser	Quantity used	Area treated	Fertiliser use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t	ha	Area	Vol
Urea	429	1712	0%	0%
Ammonium Sulphate	48	235	1%	0%
Ammonium Nitrate	74	337	2%	2%
Anhydrous Ammonia	2	14	0%	0%
Single Superphosphate	149	305	0%	1%
Double Superphosphate	10	26	0%	1%
Triple Superphosphate	24	66	0%	1%
Muriate of Potash	122	256	0%	1%
Potassium Sulphate	81	281	1%	1%
Potassium Nitrate	122	677	4%	3%
Mono Ammonium Phosphate	9	175	0%	0%
Di Ammonium Phosphate	33	120	0%	0%
Other	1637	3259	1%	1%
Total	2741			0%

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

Soil conditioner used

Most of the soil conditioner used in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01 was used to correct physical soil problems (59.4%). Gypsum (59.4%) was the only soil conditioner used for the treatment of physical soil problems and lime (38.6%) was the most common soil conditioner used to stabilise soil acidity.

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Table 11.8: Soil conditioner used, Gatton 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	0.39	0.16	0.01%	0.5%	1%
Dolomite - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.02	0.03	0%	0%	0%
Gypsum - to correct physical soil problems	0.6	0.3	0.02%	1%	1%

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

Area irrigated

The total area of agricultural holding for Gatton Shire in 2000-01 was 60,313ha; of this area 6,100ha was irrigated. The area irrigated represents 13.1% of the total area of land irrigated in the South East Queensland NRM region. The area irrigated in Gatton Shire represents 1% of all land irrigated in Queensland.

Table 11.9: Area irrigated, Gatton 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	60.313	4%	0%
Irrigated - total area	6.100	13.1%	1%
Non-irrigated - total area	54.213	3.2%	0%

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

Natural resource management profile

Fencing to exclude grazing

Fencing to exclude grazing in the Gatton Shire in 2000-01 was constructed for the following reasons; to protect creeks and rivers (46.2%), to protect remnant native vegetation (7.7%), and to protect other undefined areas (38.5%). Total fencing to exclude grazing in Gatton Shire represented 2% of the total length of fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 11.10: Fencing to exclude grazing, Gatton 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	1	0%	0%
To protect creeks and rivers	6	1%	0%
To protect other areas	5	1%	0%
Total fencing for all reasons	13	2%	

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

Tree seedlings planted

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The majority of tree seedlings planted in Gatton Shire in 2000-01 were planted for the protection of land and water (91.4%). Tree seedlings were also planted for timber and wood pulp production (7.3%), and to enhance production (0.5%). The total number of tree seedlings planted in Gatton Shire in 2000-01 represented 2% of the total number of tree seedlings planted in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01.

Table 11.11: Tree seedlings planted, Gatton 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	0.4	0%	0.1	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for enhanced production	0.02	0%	25	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for protection of land and water	5	2%	44	0%	4%	7%

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