

CHAPTER 15 – Agricultural profile of Laidley Shire

Introduction

The following agricultural profile includes information on the agricultural commodities produced in Laidley 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 holdings in the Laidley Shire at June 2001 was 187. This estimate was derived from the Agricultural Census 2000-01.

Commodities

Pastures and grasses

Native or naturalised pastures represented 83.8% of the pastures in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01, sown pastures represented 5% and pastures cut for hay represented 11.2%. Pastures and grasses in the Laidley Shire represented 0.91% of the total agricultural holdings for the South East Queensland NRM region. The pastures cut for hay in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01 represented 8% of the total value of pastures cut for hay for Queensland.

Table 15.1: Volume and value of pastures and grasses, Laidley 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 | 21.3 | 2 | 0% | 4,247 | 0% | 7% | 4% | 8% | |
| Sown pastures | N/A | 0.9 | 0.05% | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0% | N/A | |
| Native or naturalised pasture | N/A | 15 | 0.86% | 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 (\$39.6m) produced the highest value of production in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01. Cereals for grain (\$0.8m) produced the second highest value of production, followed by soybeans (\$0.3m). Vegetable crops produced in the Laidley Shire represented 6% of the total value of vegetable crops for Queensland in 2000-01. Soybeans produced in the shire in 2000-01 represented 5% of the total value of soybeans in Queensland.

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Table 15.2: Volume and value of crops, Laidley 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 | 4.5 | 0.98 | 0.1% | 780 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Crops for hay | 1.7 | 0.317 | 0% | N/A | N/A | 1% | 0% | N/A | |
| Soybeans | 0.7 | 1 | 0% | 316 | 0% | 5% | 5% | 5% | |
| Peanuts | 0.18 | 0.03 | 0% | 126 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Fruit and nuts | N/A | 0.04 | 0% | 135 | 0% | N/A | 0% | 0% | |
| Vegetables | N/A | 4.05 | 0.2% | 39,671 | 4% | N/A | 11% | 6% | |
| Total | 7.06 | 5.99 | | 41,027 | | | | | |

N/A – Not Applicable

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

Livestock

Cattle and calves (\$3.9m) produced the highest value of production in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01. Poultry (\$1.8m) produced the second highest value of production for the Laidley Shire.

Table 15.3: Volume and value of livestock, Laidley 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 | 12 ^a | 3,879 ^b | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.1% | |
| Sheep & lambs | 0.01 | ND | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Pigs | 0.36 | 97 ^b | 0% | 0.1% | 0.1% | |
| Poultry | 40 | 1,815 ^b | 0.2% | 0% | 1.1% | |

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).

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Livestock products

Cow's milk production (\$1.5m) produced the highest value of production for the Laidley Shire in 2000-01. Cow's milk produced in the shire did not represent a significant percentage of the total value of cow's milk produced across Queensland.

Table 15.4: Volume and value of livestock products, Laidley 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 | 0.1 | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Cow milk production (L) | 3,768 | 1,574 | 0.17% | 0.4% | 0.7% | |
| Eggs (dz) | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0% | 0% | 0% | |

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

Agricultural practices

Cultivation techniques

In total approximately 1927ha of land was prepared for cropping in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01, this represents 6.4% of all land prepared for cropping in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01. One to two cultivations were used on 29.8% of the land prepared for cropping, no cultivation techniques were used on 4.7% of land prepared for cropping, and other cultivation techniques were used on 65.5% of land prepared for cropping. Cultivation techniques used in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01 did not represent a significant percentage of the cultivation techniques used across Queensland.

Table 15.5: Cultivation technique, Laidley 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 | 0.1 | 0.3% | 0% |
| 1 or 2 cultivations | 0.6 | 1.9% | 0% |
| Other cultivation technique | 1.3 | 4.2% | 0% |

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

Treatment of stubble

The main method of stubble treatment in 2000-01 in the Laidley Shire was ploughing stubble into the soil (58.7%). Other methods included; mulching the stubble (21.3%), heavy grazing and baling (15.6%), hot burn (3.3%), and cool burn (0.3%).

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Table 15.6: Treatment of stubble, Laidley 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% |
| Stubble mulched | 0.3 | 1% | 0% |
| Stubble removed by hot burn | 0.05 | 0% | 0% |
| Stubble removed by cool burn | 0.004 | 0% | 0% |
| Stubble removed by baling or heavy grazing | 0.23 | 1% | 0% |
| All other methods | 0.01 | 0% | 0% |

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

Fertiliser used

The volume of fertiliser used in the Laidley 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 15.7 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 15.7: Fertiliser used, Laidley Shire, 2000-01

| Fertiliser | Quantity used | Area treated | Fertiliser use as a percentage of Queensland total | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|--|-----|
| | t | ha | Area | Vol |
| Urea | 1082 | 3051 | 0% | 1% |
| Ammonium Sulphate | 128 | 504 | 1% | 1% |
| Ammonium Nitrate | 168 | 519 | 3% | 4% |
| Anhydrous Ammonia | 2 | 9 | 0% | 0% |
| Single Superphosphate | 39 | 189 | 0% | 0% |
| Double Superphosphate | 7 | 36 | 0% | 0% |
| Muriate of Potash | 44 | 223 | 0% | 0% |
| Potassium Sulphate | 92 | 598 | 2% | 1% |
| Potassium Nitrate | 71 | 242 | 1% | 2% |
| Di Ammonium Phosphate | 12 | 98 | 0% | 0% |
| Other | 1385 | 3329 | 1% | 1% |
| Total | 3030 | | | 1% |

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

Soil conditioner used

The majority of soil conditioner used in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01 was used to treat physical soil problems (65.2%). Gypsum was the only soil conditioner used to treat physical soil problems and lime (34.8%) was the only soil conditioner used to treat soil acidity.

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Table 15.8: Soil conditioner used, Laidley 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 | 0.16 | 0.06 | 0% | 0.2% | 0% | | |
| Gypsum - to correct physical soil problems | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.01% | 1% | 0% | | |

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

Area irrigated

The total area of agricultural holding for the Laidley Shire in 2000-01 was 68,220ha; of this area 7,353ha was irrigated. The area irrigated represents 15.8% of the total area of land irrigated in the South East Queensland NRM region. The area irrigated in the Laidley Shire did not represent a significant percentage of land irrigated in Queensland.

Table 15.9: Area irrigated, Laidley 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 | 68 | 4% | 0% |
| Irrigated - total area | 7 | 15.8% | 1% |
| Non-irrigated - total area | 61 | 3.6% | 0% |

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

Natural resource management profile

Fencing to exclude grazing

Fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01 was constructed mainly to protect undefined areas (90%). Other reasons included the protection of planted trees and shrubs (5%) and the protection of other degraded areas (5%). Fencing to exclude grazing in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01 represented 2.7% of all fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 15.10: Fencing to exclude grazing, Laidley 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 | 1 | 0% | 0% |
| To protect other degraded areas | 1 | 0% | 0% |
| To protect other areas | 18 | 2% | 1% |
| Total fencing for all reasons | 20 | 2.7% | |

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

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Tree seedlings planted

The majority of tree seedlings planted in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01 were planted to enhance production (70.7%). Tree seedlings were also planted for nature conservation (23.9%), and for timber and wood pulp production (5.4%). The total number of tree seedlings planted in the Laidley Shire in 2000-01 represented less than 1% of the total number of tree seedlings planted in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01.

Table 15.11: Tree seedlings planted, Laidley 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 | 0.2 | 0% | 8 | 0% | 0% | 1% |
| Seedlings planted for timber and wood pulp | 0.05 | 0% | 0.1 | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Seedlings planted for enhanced production | 1 | 0% | 604 | 0% | 0% | 1% |

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