

Pool update



17 June 2009

Emerald 2008/09 pool update - June

Emerald Group Australia (Emerald) today announced updates to its 2008/09 season estimated pool returns. Barley and canola pools are to remain unchanged however wheat estimated pool returns have been reduced following a continued appreciation of the Australian dollar.

Wheat

Following a weaker US dollar and a continued strengthening Australian dollar, all Emerald wheat pools have been lowered by \$4 per metric tonne (mt).

While demand for Australian wheat remains steady, the rising Australian dollar has meant Australia's price competitiveness has been eroded, while the weaker US dollar has assisted US wheat competitiveness, particularly against Australian wheat in higher quality wheat markets.

The moves in foreign exchange rates have also been coupled with a sharply weaker US futures market in recent weeks, resulting in a general decline in international wheat values.

While some dry weather may impact on parts of Europe, it's not viewed as sufficient to cause major production declines across the northern hemisphere where the expectation of a good harvest remains. Other negative supply news includes India's planned entry into the wheat export market and Russia's continuing release of large volumes of milling wheat stocks on to the market.

Emerald 2008/09 central west and southern NSW wheat pool estimated pool return (EPR) base rate (\$AUD/t) by grade delivered FOB			
Grade	EPR	Grade	EPR
APH2	\$342	ASW1	\$305
H1	\$339	AGP1	\$302
H2	\$330	HPS1	\$307
AUH2	\$326	AH9	\$257
APW1	\$322	FEED	\$237

Barley

Despite the rising value of the Australian dollar, Emerald has again maintained all feed and malt barley pool returns.

Old crop feed barley values have been relatively stable in recent weeks, with limited supplies off-setting the strong upward moves in the Australian dollar. While a sharply higher Australian dollar impacts negatively on export values, Emerald's strong early season marketing program has ensured that the impact of currency on the Emerald 2008/09 pool has been negligible.

Malt barley values remain under pressure, with the main international buyer, China, continuing to remain an observer. Relatively cheap malt barley from Europe is contributing to the lack of a buying from the Chinese, with this expected to continue over the next couple of months.

A key positive as far as malt barley is concerned at the moment is the strong premiums for new crop malt barley over feed. This should assist with old crop pricing, as potential old crop sellers may look to carry product into the new crop market, rather than sell into a flat old crop situation.

Emerald 2008/09 NSW & Qld barley pool estimated pool return (EPR) base rate (\$AUD/t) by grade delivered FOB	
Northern NSW/Southern Qld	Number 1 pool
Malt 1 - Gairdner	\$355
Malt 1 - Fitzroy	\$345
Malt 1 - Grimmett	\$325
F1	\$250
F2	\$230
Southern & Central NSW	
Malt 1 – Schooner, Baudin & Gairdner	\$355
Malt 1 - Flagship & Buloke	\$355
F1	\$260
F2	\$240
Northern NSW/ Southern Qld/ Southern & Central NSW	Number 2 pool
F1	\$240
F2	\$220
F3	\$190

Note: Estimated Pool Return (EPR) is as at date of release and at a defined quality level for each pool pay grade. Prices are net of management fees. Early Order Premiums (if applicable) need to be ADDED to the quoted returns. Wheat base grade is APW and all prices are Free On Board (FOB) and deductions associated with payment option choice and location to be taken into account. All prices are in Australian dollars (AUD) and are estimates only and subject to change over the life of the pool as a result of changing market conditions and management performance. All terms and conditions of Emerald pools are published on our website at www.emerald-group.com.au and more detailed information in relation to returns and deductions can be found on each pools 'fact sheet' which can be downloaded from the web site.

For more information on Emerald's pool returns call 1300 880 432 or visit www.emerald-group.com.au

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Background information

Emerald Group Australia Pty Ltd is a leading independent grain marketing company offering a range of products to assist agribusiness maximise returns and manage grain market risks.

Emerald has significantly changed the pool marketing landscape in Australia. Emerald broke new ground with the establishment of the pool based contract premiums as well as forced the industry to maintain payments for quality by enhancing the quality payments matrix applicable in the 2008/09 season. Emerald also offers a range of fixed price alternatives and other products.

For more information visit www.emerald-group.com.au.

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