

# AGRICULTURE

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**A**GRICULTURE AND PASTORAL activities have played a central part in Australian history. The desire for land, not simply gold, sustained British immigration even though Australia's mainly dry climate was not conducive to intensive settlement of the land. This reality notwithstanding, there was continued pressure on politicians from the late 1850s to ease the entry of newcomers into agriculture. This pressure showed itself in the efforts of the colonial legislators to break up the squatters' holdings in the 1860s, laws to promote closer settlement in the 1890s and 1900s, the returned soldier settlement schemes of the 1920s and the various irrigation schemes after 1945.

The belief in Australia as a country of limitless agricultural opportunity died hard, despite evidence to the contrary provided by thinkers like Griffith Taylor in the late 1920s. Agriculture was not simply an economic activity; it represented an independent way of life in contrast to the status of the industrial wage-worker. In nineteenth-century England especially, the country represented stability, tradition and dignity while the new bustling industrial cities challenged the traditional order. In Australia, anti-urban attitudes appeared in depressed times, such as the 1890s and 1930s, and in movements to set up agricultural co-operative settlements, but more generally they were embodied in the myth that real Australians worked on the land.

Agriculture changed the face of Australia. The land occupied by Aborigines was wanted mainly for agricultural use and the originally extensive native forests were cleared for farming or sheep raising, often without thought of the effect on the environment. It was not until the 1930s that erosion and the growth of deserts began to attract the attention of governments.

Nevertheless, rural industries and mining have been the driving forces of Australia's economic development. After about 1860 Australia, with New Zealand and South Africa, assumed an important role as a supplier of wool and grain to Britain. Pickled Australian beef was exported to Britain as early as the mid-1840s—according to the social investigator Henry Mayhew, the London poor disliked it because it was stringy.

The application of technology to Australian agriculture greatly raised its productivity and enabled Australia to become a highly efficient agricultural producer, along with North America. The agricultural and pastoral frontier was expanded by the linkage of farming land to the ports by the railways, by the discovery of artesian water in 1871 and by inventions such as the stump-jump plough in 1876. Similarly, the widespread adoption of refrigeration in the 1890s

made it possible for Australia to export fresh meat and dairy products to Britain. By 1895, one-fifth of Britain's meat imports came from Australia.

The invention of labour saving devices also raised agricultural productivity. In Victoria in 1884 H.V. McKay invented a harvester which reaped and winnowed wheat in one operation. After 1920, the pace of mechanisation was increased by innovations such as petrol-driven tractors. In 1919 the number of horses in Australia had reached 2.5 million, but thereafter declined steadily. Yet although inventions raised rural productivity, they directly reduced the demand for labour and accelerated the drift of population from the land to the cities, a trend which began in the early 1890s but became far more pronounced after the 1914–15 drought. In 1921, 37 per cent of Australians were still rural dwellers, but by 1954 this proportion had fallen to 21 per cent and by 1981 was only 14 per cent.

That the rural industries were able to continue to be so important in the economy despite the loss of population was not just the result of technological advances: science played an important role too. Former Cambridge mathematician William Farrer began to develop important new strains of wheat in the late 1890s in New South Wales. Artificial fertilisers boosted crop yields. Other sources of scientific advance came from the graduates of government agricultural colleges, state agricultural departments and, after 1920, the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry, the forerunner of the CSIRO.

Australia's small population meant that the bulk of its agricultural and pastoral production was exported, mainly to Britain. This arrangement lasted until January 1973 when Britain became part of the European Economic Community. Over the past decade Australian agriculture has suffered not only the loss of its traditional market, Britain, but also the dumping of the European Economic Community's agricultural surplus on world markets, which reduces Australia's chances of building up new markets. The pattern of Australian agricultural exports which held sway for over a century has now disappeared and the future direction of the export trade in Australian agricultural products is less clear, and seems unlikely to have the stability of the old one.

The following tables chart aspects of agricultural production from the earliest available records to the 1980s and, indirectly, the difficulties of coming to terms with a vast, harsh land, drought—especially in 1895–1903 and 1958–68—and the vagaries of the international economy which determined the prices Australian farmers could ask for their products. Above all, they record the hopes, failures and triumphs of the many Australians on the land.



## AG 1-9 EMPLOYMENT IN THE RURAL INDUSTRIES, COLONIES, STATES AND TERRITORIES 1841-1981

Census year	NSW <sup>a</sup>	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	NT	ACT	Aust
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1841	26 417	3 201	778	..	10 749	..	..	..	..
1846	25 712	7 502	..	..	12 792	921 <sup>b</sup>	..	..	..
1851	26 481	11 641	1 966	..	13 990	..	..	..	..
1856	30 208	38 625	3 313	12 394 <sup>c</sup>	12 455	1 759 <sup>b</sup>	..	98 754	..
1861	53 902	50 301	5 502	23 135	13 647	3 066	..	149 533	..
1866	..	..	..	20 747	..	..	..	..	..
1871	70 929	82 327	25 092	24 224	13 630	3 840	1	220 043	..
1876	..	..	27 575	27 247	..	..	13	..	..
1881	86 603	119 527	30 337	34 390	18 608	4 763	249	294 477	..
1886	..	..	50 318	..	..	..	..	..	..
1891	110 800	100 479	54 284	33 883	18 478	6 417	..	324 341 <sup>d</sup>	..
1901	127 661	126 840	61 505	41 247	21 303	10 786	..	389 342 <sup>d</sup>	..
1911	152 225	115 492	75 485	43 882	22 803	25 766	507	401	436 561
1921	160 077	125 795	90 404	47 658	23 192	31 397	785	280	479 588
1933	175 321	135 879	110 951	53 028	23 333	45 159	862	386	544 919
1943 <sup>e</sup>	132 220	104 566	93 221	39 519	17 650	29 031	..	..	416 207
1947	135 326	108 667	91 194	40 134	18 015	32 021	676	334	426 367
1954	150 134	111 304	102 451	45 499	18 012	38 921	1033	448	467 802
1961	135 268	105 268	96 212	42 864	15 600	38 251	1466	452	435 381
1966	134 177	112 119	92 953	47 060	15 767	41 703	1229	893	445 901
1971	113 353	97 537	76 936	41 018	12 352	37 810	2865	988	382 859
1976	120 098	103 056	81 172	48 557	11 812	44 856	2171	998	412 720
1981	111 855	95 005	75 322	43 357	11 113	43 467	2078	1118	383 315

NOTE Includes casual and permanent employees as well as proprietors and their families, but excludes Aborigines prior to 1967.

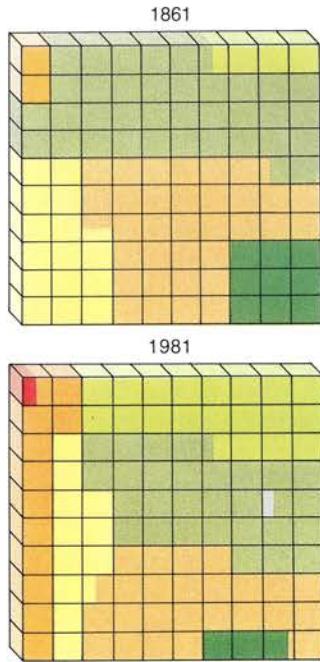
(a) In 1891-1921 includes agricultural and pastoral occupations; excludes 'Other primary producers'.

(b) Excludes females.

(c) Excludes females engaged in cultivation; includes those in pastoral pursuits.

(d) Absence of data for NT means that Aust total is slightly understated.

(e) ACT is included in NSW, and NT in SA.

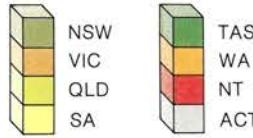


## AG 10-18 RURAL ESTABLISHMENTS, COLONIES, STATES AND TERRITORIES 1850-1980

Year <sup>a</sup>	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	NT	ACT	Aust
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1850	..	559	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1855	..	..	..	395	..	..	..	..	..
1860	15 715	13 175	..	777	..	..	..	..	..
1865	21 540	19 532	2 849	1 219	..	..	..	..	..
1870	27 720	31 281	3 560	896	6 654	2 369	..	..	..
1875	35 131	39 332	3 757	1 112	7 759	3 154	..	..	..
1880	39 918	49 670	6 422	1 490	7 982	3 928	..	..	..
1885	43 079	38 139	9 542	1 785	9 902	5 986	..	..	..
1890	47 620	36 497	6 547	1 220	10 649	5 577	..	..	..
1895	61 126	34 249	3 577	840	..	5 491	..	..	..
1900	71 321	42 210	2 393	543	12 584	5 778	..	..	..
1905	79 945	52 598	1 353	495	11 334	8 446	..	..	..
1910	90 946	61 811	1 434	570	13 068	12 477	462	..	..
1915	101 211	71 828	1 943	27 917	13 520	16 787	514	..	..
1920	86 219	75 340	1 957	29 048	13 942	16 060	..	75	..
1925	78 893	80 037	1 950	29 776	13 854	19 455	..	71	..
1930	76 158	74 161	1 913	30 246	11 461	21 101	555	..	..
1935	75 800	74 473	2 312	31 123	11 754	22 874	..	186	..
1940	74 909	72 557	42 076	31 244	11 575	20 807	492	204	253 864
1945	74 566	70 856	42 615	27 867	12 173	18 737	410	201	247 425
1950	73 987	70 486	41 560	27 900	11 548	19 565	327	221	245 594
1955	73 759	69 551	43 284	28 092	11 743	20 876	245	212	247 762
1960	77 499	69 778	42 912	28 527	11 202	21 832	269	224	252 243
1965	77 098	69 737	43 565	28 754	10 979	22 856	307	207	253 503
1970	75 908	69 498	43 829	29 035	10 159	22 937	322	193	251 881
1975	74 962	62 926	39 772	28 185	9 052	20 500	385	142	231 507
1980	56 788	49 616	35 985	23 177	6 180	18 395	346	106	190 593

(a) Year ending 31 Mar except NSW 1920-30 (30 June); Vic 1865-80 (31 Dec of previous year for squatting runs); Qld 1865-1935 (not available); SA 1855-1910 (not available), 1920-40 (30 June); Tas 1870-1900 (not available), 1915-40 (30 June); WA 1870-1925 (31 Dec of previous year), 1930-40 (28 Feb); NT 1910 (31 Dec of previous year), 1915 (30 June), 1930 (31 Dec of previous year), 1940-55 (not available); ACT 1920-60 (not available), 1965-80 (30 June).

EMPLOYMENT IN THE RURAL INDUSTRIES, PERCENTAGE BY COLONY, STATE AND TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA, 1861 AND 1981



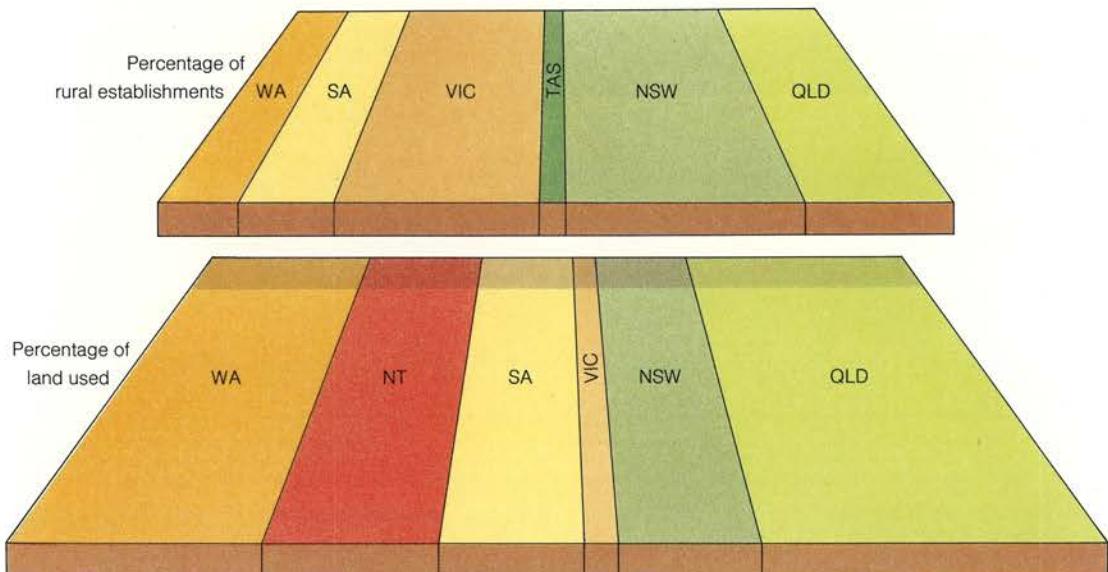
## AG 19-27 LANDUSE, COLONIES, STATES AND TERRITORIES 1850-1980

Year <sup>a</sup>	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	NT	ACT <sup>b</sup>	Aust
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	'000 acres	'000 acres							
1850	..	218	..	..	4059	..	..	..	..
1855	..	..	..	12 785	5088	..	..	..	..
1860	27 663	3 016	..	24 665	..	..	..	..	..
1865	114 616	36 589	85 156	33 675	5947	..	..	..	..
1870	139 032	36 552	172 748	41 052	5224	16 867	..	..	..
1875	195 251	36 495	159 765	62 393	5330	18 996	..	..	..
1880	170 824	33 805	238 999	121 886	6216	28 916	..	..	..
1885	176 194	46 819	323 213	155 059	6183	150 154	..	..	..
1890	175 100	45 225	285 976	115 410	5278	110 083	..	..	..
1895	167 238	42 542	285 203	88 583	5280	96 141	..	..	..
1900	172 976	48 397	296 358	70 894	5464	95 256	183 688	873 033	..
1905	167 408	32 181	253 336	100 754	6985	150 441	104 671	815 776	..
1910	172 039	38 086	304 865	103 269	6695	150 388	98 330	873 672	..
1915	174 672	38 304	358 024	126 796	6010	170 697	113 813	..	988 316
1920	173 296	39 041	352 406	131 466	6176	181 388	133 444	..	1 017 217
1925	172 550	36 806	333 719	139 438	6753	237 429	143 674	..	1 070 369
1930	172 535	38 338	341 815	132 675	6547	229 884	148 458	320 1 070 572	..
1935	171 631	38 861	331 663	137 918	6813	214 455	121 720	369 1 023 430	..
1940	174 315	40 653	338 216	145 979	6777	213 503	102 998	394 1 022 835	..
1945	170 080	40 830	348 648	137 386	6664	207 987	163 497	382 1 075 474	..
1950	170 027	38 342	355 803	146 563	6411	211 057	162 561	403 1 091 667	..
1955	169 445	37 814	362 200	149 379	6604	228 883	181 165	390 1 135 880	..
1960	172 721	37 737	371 794	155 437	6511	244 619	158 806	382 1 148 007	..
1965	172 148	37 844	377 010	156 955	6420	268 553	171 482	358 1 190 770	..
1970	170 630	39 057	380 218	162 692	6517	280 819	182 116	339 1 222 388	..
	'000 ha	'000 ha							
1975	68 880	15 484	154 186	63 825	2492	115 601	79 347	93	499 908
1980	65 005	14 735	157 721	62 786	2229	114 923	78 168	61	495 638

NOTES The figures include all land used for agriculture and grazing only after the following years: NSW-Vic 1863, Qld 1975, SA 1859, Tas 1849, WA 1868, NT 1897, and ACT 1929.

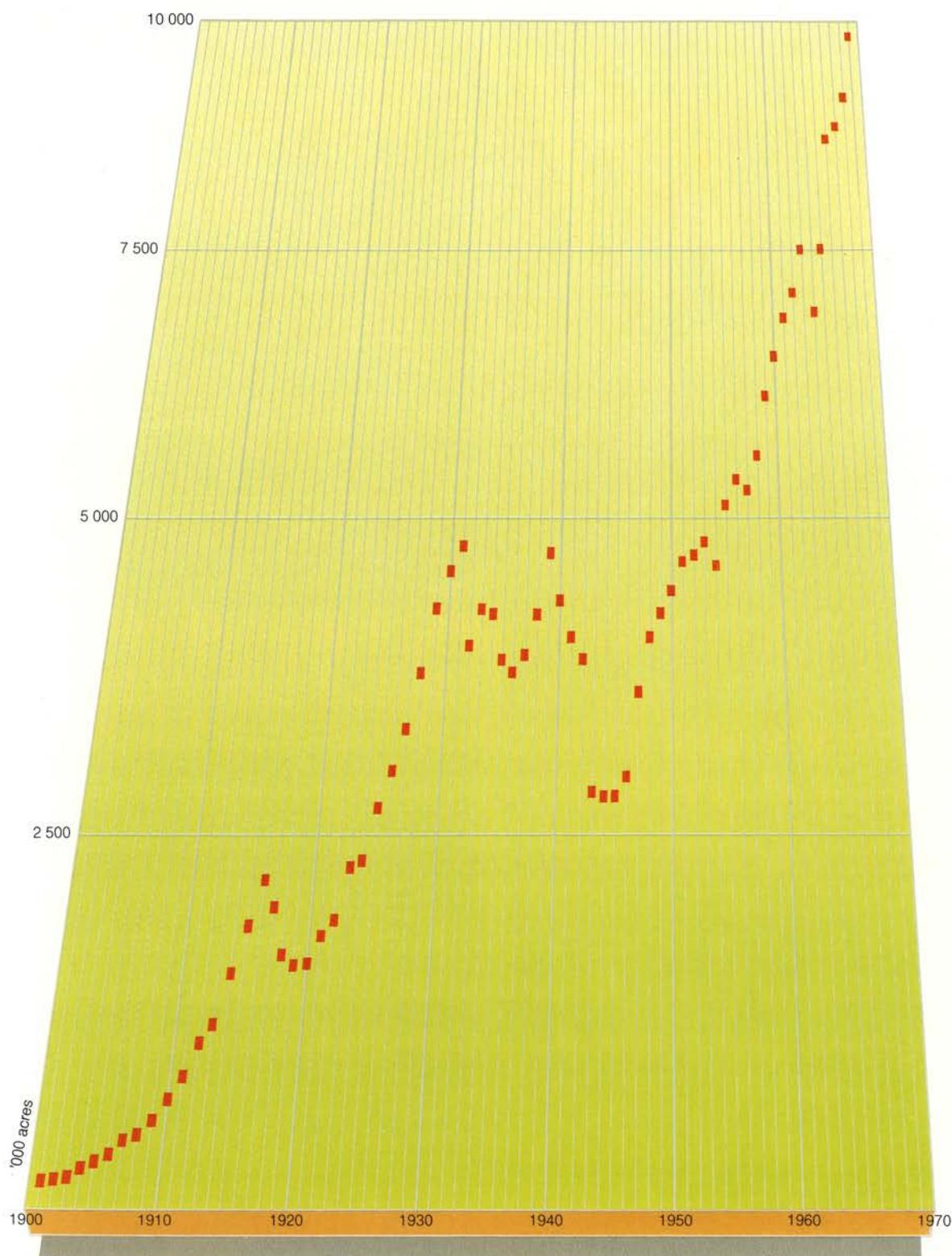
(a) Year ending 31 Dec of previous year, except NSW 1860 (all rural, 31 Mar), 1865-1925 (alienated rural, 31 Mar), 1930 (alienated rural, 30 June), 1935 (alienated rural, 31 Mar), 1905-15 (crown, 31 Mar), 1920 (crown, 30 June), 1925-35 (crown, 31 Mar); Vic 1850-60 (not available), 1865-80 (31 Mar, except squatting runs), 1905-80 (31 Mar); SA 1855 (not available); Tas 1850-80 (not available); WA 1910-25 (not available), 1930-40 (28 Feb), 1945-80 (31 Mar); NT 1915-25 (30 June), 1940-55 (30 June), 1960 (not available), 1965-80 (30 June); ACT 1930-60 (not available), 1965-80 (30 June).

(b) Included in NSW before 1929.



PERCENTAGE OF LAND USED AGAINST PERCENTAGE OF RURAL ESTABLISHMENTS, AUSTRALIA, 1980

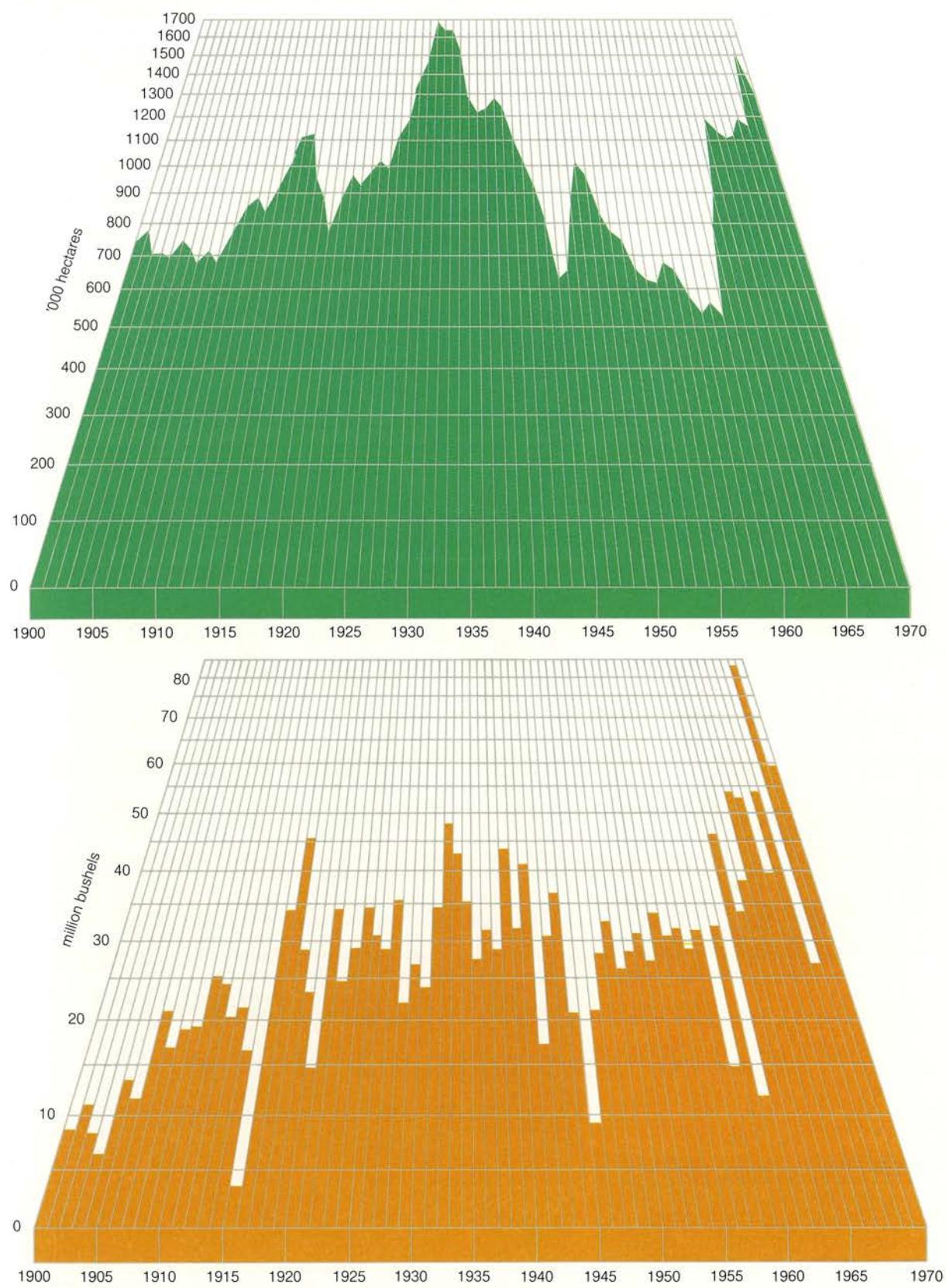




LAND CULTIVATED FOR CROPS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1900-1970

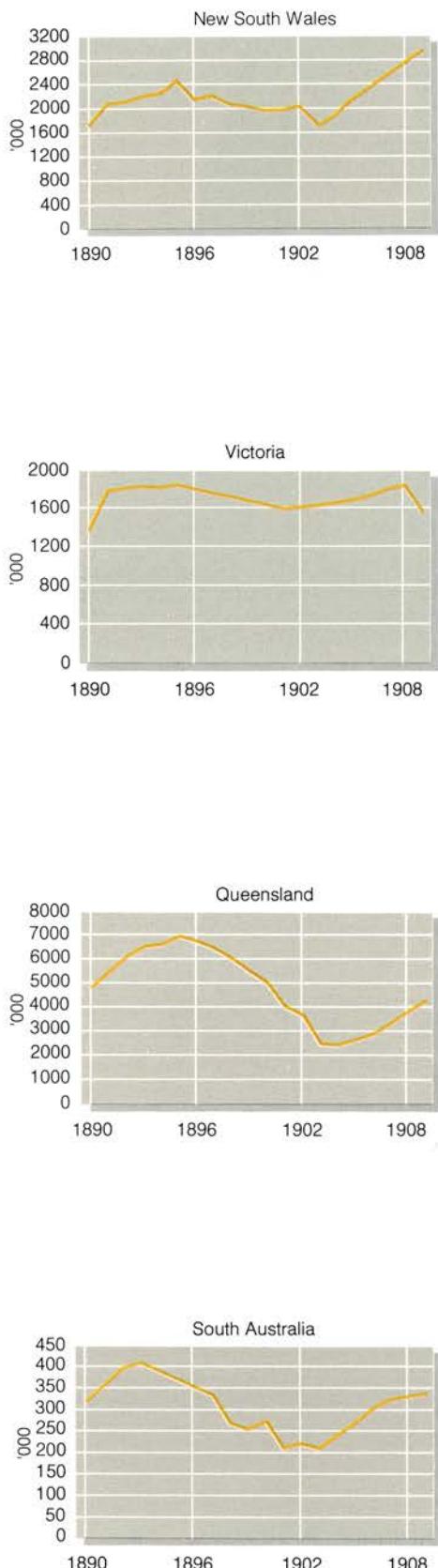
*Between 1850 and 1890 the number of acres of arable land in Western Australia rarely exceeded seventy thousand.*





HECTARES SOWN FOR WHEAT AGAINST WHEAT PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1900–1970

## AG 46-54 WHEAT PRODUCTION, COLONIES, STATES AND TERRITORIES 1850-1983



Year <sup>a</sup>	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	NT <sup>b</sup>	ACT	Aust
	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
	'000 bushels	'000 bushels	'000 bushels						
1850	1 398	525	3	668	1111	..	..	..	..
1851	921	556	0*	669	..	..	..	..	..
1852	1 406	733	2	681	1231	..	..	..	..
1853	1 194	499	0	..	747	73	..	..	..
1854	1 383	154	1	..	716	71	..	..	..
1855	786	250	1	719	791	81	..	..	2 627
1856	1 335	1 148	1	1 780	1212	127	..	..	5 602
1857	1 756	1 859	1	4 050	1254	214	..	..	9 134
1858	1 289	1 808	0*	2 638	1214	167	..	..	7 116
1859	1 566	1 563	1	2 110	930	167	..	..	6 336
1860	1 605	2 296	..	2 103	1062	183	..	..	7 249 <sup>c</sup>
1861	1 582	3 460	3	3 577	1416	208	..	..	10 246
1862	1 606	3 608	6	3 411	1381	225	..	..	10 237
1863	1 055	3 008	12	3 842	1009	224	..	..	9 150
1864	809	1 339	23	4 692	953	286	..	..	8 102
1865	1 246	1 899	31	4 253	840	301	..	..	8 570
1866	1 014	3 514	33	3 588	1274	232	..	..	9 655
1867	2 226	4 641	41	6 561	1529	424	..	..	15 422
1868	1 434	3 412	43	2 580	895	361	..	..	8 725
1869	1 787	4 229	55	5 174	879	216	..	..	12 340
1870	3 201	5 697	38	3 052	1005	220	..	..	13 213
1871	1 000	2 870	40	6 961	897	317	..	..	12 085
1872	2 230	4 501	55	3 967	848	321	..	..	11 922
1873	2 898	5 391	79	8 736	1162	180	..	..	18 446
1874	2 274	4 752	81	6 179	948	308	..	..	14 542
1875	2 148	4 850	72	9 863	1067	241	..	..	18 241
1876	1 959	4 979	97	10 740	700	166	..	..	18 641
1877	2 392	5 280	101	5 858	752	162	..	..	14 545
1878	2 446	7 018	93	9 035	846	169	..	..	19 607
1879	3 439	6 061	130	9 332	779	229	..	..	19 970
1880	3 613	9 399	29	14 261	1043	385	..	..	28 730
1881	3 717	9 727	223	8 607	750	257	..	..	23 281
1882	3 406	8 714	40	8 087	977	124	..	..	21 348
1883	4 042	8 751	146	7 356	947	245	..	..	21 487
1884	4 345	15 570	43	14 649	733	335	..	..	35 675
1885	4 271	10 433	196	14 622	655	395	..	..	30 572
1886	2 733	9 171	52	5 161	524	349	..	..	17 990
1887	5 869	12 100	21	10 835	633	229	..	..	29 687
1888	4 696	13 329	182	19 012	675	270	..	..	38 164
1889	1 451	8 648	8	6 187	819	310	..	..	17 423
1890	6 570	11 496	134	14 577	757	505	..	..	34 039
1891	3 649	12 751	208	9 399	643	467	..	..	27 118
1892	3 964	13 679	392	6 436	938	266	..	..	25 675
1893	6 817	14 815	463	9 240	1019	406	..	..	32 760
1894	6 503	15 255	413	13 618	834	520	..	..	37 143
1895	7 041	11 446	545	7 781	872	170	..	..	27 856
1896	5 195	5 669	124	5 929	1165	188	..	..	18 270
1897	8 853	7 091	601	2 804	1286	244	..	..	20 880
1898	10 560	10 580	1009	4 015	1668	409	..	..	28 241
1899	9 276	19 581	607	8 779	2304	871	..	..	41 418
1900	13 604	15 238	614	8 453	1101	967	..	..	39 978
1901	16 174	17 847	1194	11 253	1110	775	..	..	48 353
1902	14 809	12 127	1692	8 013	964	957	..	..	38 562
1903	1 585	2 569	6	6 355	877	986	..	..	12 378
1904	27 334	28 526	2437	13 209	767	1 876	..	..	74 150
1905	16 464	21 092	2150	12 023	793	2 013	..	..	54 536
1906	20 737	23 418	1137	20 144	776	2 308	..	..	68 521
1907	21 818	22 618	1109	17 467	651	2 759	..	..	66 421
1908	9 156	12 101	694	19 136	644	2 926	..	..	44 656
1909	15 483	23 346	1203	19 398	701	2 461	..	..	62 591
1910	28 532	28 780	1572	25 134	794	5 602	..	..	90 414
1911	27 914	34 813	1022	24 345	1121	5 898	0*	..	95 112
1912	25 080	20 892	285	20 353	660	4 359	0*	8	71 636
1913	32 467	26 223	1976	21 496	630	9 169	0	21	91 981
1914	37 996	32 936	1769	16 937	350	13 331	0	24	103 344
1915	12 813	3 941	1585	3 527	384	2 624	0	18	24 892
1916	66 726	58 522	414	34 135	994	18 236	0	38	179 066
1917	36 585	51 162	2463	45 745	348	16 103	0	13	152 420
1918	37 705	37 738	1035	28 693	252	9 304	0	7	114 734
1919	18 325	25 240	105	22 937	187	8 845	0	0*	75 638

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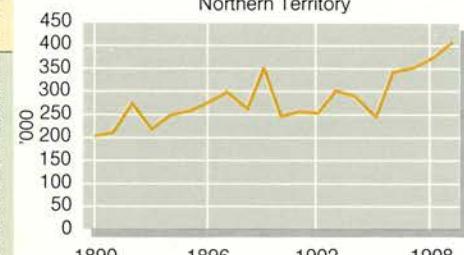
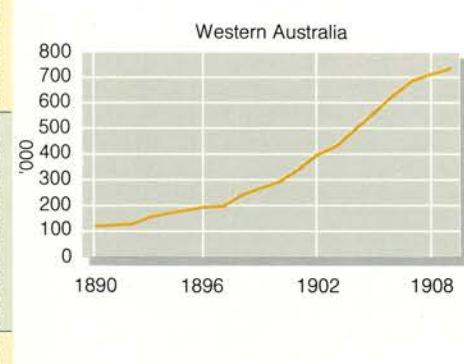
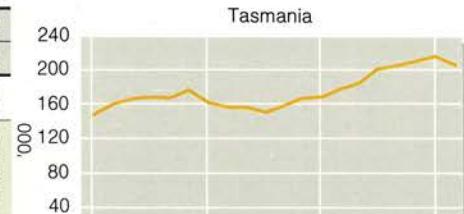
AG 46-54 continued

Year <sup>a</sup>	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	NT <sup>b</sup>	ACT	Aust
	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
	'000 bushels								
1920	4 387	14 858	312	14 980	214	11 223	0	1	45 975
1921	55 611	39 469	3 707	34 259	566	12 248	0	14	145 874
1922	42 759	43 868	3 026	24 947	577	13 905	0	8	129 089
1923	28 661	35 697	1 878	28 785	570	13 857	0	7	109 455
1924	33 171	37 796	244	34 552	306	18 920	0	5	124 993
1925	59 752	47 364	2 780	30 529	231	23 887	0	15	164 559
1926	33 801	29 256	1 973	28 603	396	20 471	0	5	114 504
1927	47 374	46 886	379	35 559	537	31 069	0	5	161 809
1928	27 042	26 161	3 784	24 066	773	36 370	0	4	118 200
1929	49 257	46 819	2 516	26 826	455	33 790	0	17	159 679
1930	34 407	25 413	4 235	23 345	376	39 081	0	28	126 885
1931	65 877	53 814	5 108	34 872	391	53 504	0	28	213 594
1932	54 966	41 956	3 864	48 093	183	41 521	0	29	190 612
1933	78 870	47 843	2 494	42 430	433	41 792	0	65	213 927
1934	57 057	42 613	4 362	35 373	561	37 305	0	67	177 338
1935	48 678	25 851	4 076	27 456	308	26 985	0	40	133 393
1936	48 822	37 552	2 690	31 616	186	23 315	0	36	144 218
1937	55 668	42 845	2 016	28 715	571	21 549	0	26	151 390
1938	55 104	48 173	3 749	43 428	526	36 225	0	50	187 256
1939	59 898	18 104	8 584	31 674	205	36 844	0	59	155 369
1940	76 552	45 055	6 795	41 072	108	40 861	0	45	210 487
1941	23 933	13 521	5 687	17 856	140	21 060	0	35	82 233
1942	48 500	46 954	3 080	30 511	145	37 500	0	23	166 713
1943	51 693	41 803	5 005	36 525	73	20 600	0	28	155 728
1944	47 500	19 733	5 084	20 690	122	16 550	0	39	109 720
1945	17 134	3 498	6 981	9 244	93	15 929	0	2	52 880
1946	62 520	29 634	8 188	21 034	67	20 929	0	39	142 410
1947	15 682	48 971	705	27 906	139	23 800	0	59	117 262
1948	95 227	46 962	10 685	32 524	118	34 500	0	100	220 116
1949	64 704	49 064	14 317	26 136	156	36 250	0	76	190 703
1950	81 939	57 434	11 778	28 351	127	38 500	0	92	218 221
1951	43 273	51 236	8 785	30 936	95	49 900	0	19	184 244
1952	39 689	45 995	6 632	27 301	94	40 000	0	15	159 725
1953	56 670	50 335	18 662	33 919	156	35 458	0	8	195 208
1954	63 681	53 698	10 180	30 409	263	39 700	0	29	197 961
1955	37 718	48 485	16 478	31 463	159	34 300	0	15	168 617
1956	57 149	41 083	14 922	28 892	129	53 250	0	19	195 443
1957	28 490	35 282	7 061	31 432	89	32 100	0	1	134 455
1958	10 603	32 134	6 657	14 914	153	33 100	0	5	97 566
1959	66 441	42 697	16 097	32 032	164	57 650	0	40	215 121
1960	75 358	38 793	13 523	11 929	182	58 670	0	47	198 501
1961	84 657	67 587	10 999	46 396	148	63 900	0	30	273 716
1962	78 350	56 878	12 018	33 854	345	65 700	0	32	247 178
1963	109 002	67 899	18 683	38 339	419	72 500	0	70	306 912
1964	122 472	76 302	22 274	53 971	483	52 340	0	69	327 912
1965	151 483	78 166	22 830	52 817	364	63 071	0	58	368 789
1966	39 117	60 591	17 429	39 976	368	102 156	0	28	259 666
1967	202 501	70 896	35 730	53 816	385	103 195	0	87	466 610
1968	87 323	28 317	27 417	26 899	316	106 975	0	42	277 289
1969	215 119	90 728	42 000	83 160	410	112 450	0	84	543 950
1970	162 786	83 544	14 898	59 159	353	66 700	0	73	387 512
	'000 tonnes								
1971	3 016	1 006	120	792	8	2 963	0	1	7 906
1972	2 410	1 894	722	1 407	8	2 165	0	1	8 607
1973	1 954	1 405	405	815	8	2 003	0	0*	6 590
1974	3 962	1 490	526	1 795	4	4 211	0	0*	11 987
1975	3 809	2 091	692	1 486	2	3 277	0	0*	11 357
1976	4 310	1 579	830	1 139	2	4 122	0	0*	11 982
1977	5 141	1 780	794	832	4	3 249	0	1	11 800
1978	3 846	1 497	569	511	2	2 945	0	0*	9 370
1979	6 640	2 998	1 962	2 086	3	4 400	0	0*	18 090
1980	6 000	3 250	846	2 349	4	3 739	0	1	16 188
1981	2 865	2 538	485	1 650	3	3 315	0	0*	10 856
1982	5 910	2 467	1 482	1 695	2	4 803	0	0*	16 360
1983	1 499	394	754	692	1	5 534	0	0*	8 876

(a) See AG 37-45, note (a).

(b) Included in SA until 1911.

(c) Absence of data for Qld means that Aust total is slightly understated.


 BEEF AND  
DAIRY CATTLE BY STATE,  
1890-1909





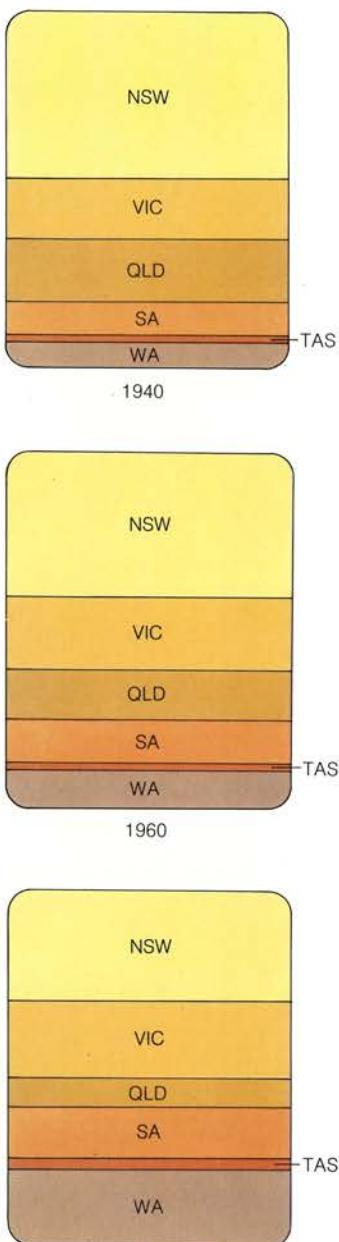
## AG 73-81 PRODUCTION OF GREASY WOOL, COLONIES, STATES AND TERRITORIES 1850-1984

Year <sup>a</sup>	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	NT <sup>b</sup>	ACT <sup>c</sup>	Aust
	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
	'000 kg	'000 kg	'000 kg						
1850	6 473	8 206	..	1 482	2656	141			18 958
1851	6 926	7 414	..	1 676	2624	163			18 803
1852	5 029	9 093	..	1 231	2551	162			18 066
1853	7 420	9 454	..	2 090	2657	180			21 801
1854	8 608	10 432	..	1 571	2005	201			22 817
1855	8 016	10 244	..	2 536	2657	224			23 677
1856	8 709	9 965	..	3 736	2068	227			24 705
1857	7 731	7 791	..	4 398	2586	217			22 723
1858	6 148	9 759	..	3 527	2157	247			21 838
1859	7 706	9 825	..	4 308	2771	270			24 880
WA									
1860	5 810	10 999	2 271	5 321	2058	298			26 758
1861	8 242	10 817	3 172	5 971	1861	328			30 393
1862	9 520	11 424	3 658	6 001	2378	366			33 346
1863	7 186	11 567	4 839	7 061	2116	508			33 279
1864	11 716	18 083	6 354	7 299	2255	250			45 957
1865	13 544	20 081	5 557	7 380	2234	616			49 412
1866	16 774	17 523	11 950	8 954	2161	560			57 922
1867	9 847	21 975	16 065	8 777	2126	595			59 385
1868	11 667	28 013	14 700	13 108	2783	713			70 984
1869	23 256	23 763	17 625	12 258	2543	853			80 298
NSW									
1870	21 519	22 780	17 511	14 175	1881	811			78 677
1871	29 761	31 192	18 606	11 752	2384	756			94 451
1872	22 786	24 148	13 796	15 291	2721	835			79 577
1873	24 194	19 664	13 924	14 954	1925	799			75 460
1874	44 087	38 892	15 607	16 145	2291	1 304			118 326
1875	50 243	30 293	14 591	18 018	2812	1 101			117 058
1876	56 117	41 166	16 232	19 253	3107	1 284			137 159
1877	55 469	36 619	17 307	24 155	3636	1 811			138 997
1878	64 112	35 263	13 946	28 137	3408	1 369			146 235
1879	67 767	31 643	14 633	22 102	3350	1 590			141 085
TAS									
WA									
1880	82 398	33 914	15 984	22 272	4094	1 970			160 632
1881	73 336	28 357	15 567	22 118	3751	1 863			144 992
1882	77 499	34 698	14 936	23 544	3515	2 186			156 378
1883	98 094	39 139	24 954	21 383	3746	1 752			189 068
1884	91 438	35 074	20 211	23 954	3726	1 938			176 341
1885	87 744	30 536	24 203	23 327	2619	2 253			170 682
1886	93 429	32 447	17 289	22 934	3709	2 785			172 593
1887	114 743	27 816	28 437	21 726	4418	3 028			200 168
1888	121 308	28 882	27 468	21 740	3165	3 844			206 407
1889	134 293	30 375	32 543	22 259	2831	4 310			226 611
NSW									
1890	123 536	28 760	30 550	19 680	4075	3 161	36		209 798
1891	170 371	38 794	44 065	26 133	4254	3 984	12		287 613
1892	160 689	41 334	56 114	23 516	3827	3 952	62		289 495
1893	164 594	33 428	49 547	24 421	3959	5 449	87		281 426
1894	171 401	32 964	47 124	23 343	4163	4 630	108		283 733
1895	155 602	40 352	49 572	27 228	3276	4 022	105		280 156
1896	145 272	33 367	51 244	23 558	3997	5 410	152		262 999
1897	137 583	35 656	43 982	18 312	3694	5 941	128		245 296
1898	132 525	33 218	52 962	17 493	3535	4 860	235		244 828
1899	115 591	41 251	43 264	18 239	3917	4 834	115		227 211
TAS									
WA									
1900	107 802	41 047	29 342	16 335	3064	4 323	45		201 959
1901	140 649	39 366	32 843	20 209	4658	6 942	117		244 785
1902	98 617	35 606	20 571	19 411	4362	6 637	81		185 286
1903	102 968	28 063	25 222	20 140	3115	6 643	7		186 158
1904	113 826	39 066	30 320	18 238	5589	6 334	0*		213 373
1905	134 788	33 905	32 805	18 698	5331	8 856	0*		234 383
1906	147 619	35 498	39 947	22 194	5716	7 910	..		258 884 <sup>d</sup>
1907	166 672	54 440	47 253	26 232	4934	9 985	..		309 516 <sup>d</sup>
1908	158 660	42 638	52 292	23 606	6287	10 184	0*		293 666
1909	182 165	50 849	57 848	25 590	5693	13 630	0*		335 775
NSW									
1910	182 497	57 518	67 700	28 974	6051	14 300	181		357 221
1911	183 550	61 446	69 120	27 372	5773	14 705	181		362 148
1912	148 125	51 603	66 623	25 942	6539	12 805	204		311 842
1913	172 117	59 800	74 473	25 109	5485	12 698	181		349 863
1914	167 565	54 616	75 061	18 713	5465	11 714	181		333 316
1916 <sup>e</sup>	138 894	48 685	63 859	16 481	5328	15 208	159		288 612
1917	144 353	54 361	50 903	17 025	5644	16 310	159		288 755
1918	146 446	59 160	44 192	22 561	5410	18 934	150		296 854
1919	154 655	68 787	56 145	27 116	5570	21 613	150		334 036
TAS									
WA									
1920	159 698	71 599	58 076	28 283	5928	22 081	23		345 688
1921	124 861	52 278	56 613	23 752	5218	20 848	18		283 588
1922	151 436	58 293	64 674	26 202	5278	22 082	14		327 977
NSW									
1920	192	192	192	192	192	192	192	192	192

## AGRICULTURE

AG 73-81 continued

Year <sup>a</sup>	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	NT <sup>b</sup>	ACT <sup>c</sup>	Aust
	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
	'000 kg	'000 kg	'000 kg						
1923	152 816	57 819	65 758	26 626	5 543	21 051	9		329 622
1924	137 454	48 768	59 835	26 255	5 313	22 918	9		300 552
1925	167 431	60 548	69 007	28 322	5 662	21 412	9		352 391
1926	182 568	63 084	72 006	31 301	5 699	23 509	14		378 182
1927	226 491	68 777	58 712	32 825	5 594	26 898	14		419 310
1928	201 334	67 361	61 936	35 548	6 020	30 640	14		402 853
1929	219 051	81 581	68 089	33 846	6 759	28 981	14	832	439 151
1930	208 641	72 876	73 069	30 528	6 804	32 914	14	854	425 699
1931	193 786	66 617	82 582	28 794	6 713	34 905	16	695	414 107
1932	227 546	72 449	83 787	30 401	6 668	35 374	16	738	456 979
1933	241 350	77 478	84 294	34 350	6 895	36 881	16	739	482 003
1934	219 718	73 095	77 107	35 965	6 441	38 610	16	799	451 751
1935	224 522	71 107	78 966	35 286	6 366	43 471	16	860	460 593
1936	214 363	74 117	64 770	37 063	7 394	41 939	16	805	440 467
1937	228 439	73 959	69 748	34 747	6 381	31 722	16	798	445 809
1938	224 543	81 144	79 267	39 284	7 076	32 063	16	815	464 207
1939	198 286	75 220	81 402	46 670	7 947	35 744	16	866	446 150
1940	247 788	81 251	88 801	47 748	8 316	36 586	16	1013	511 519
1941	243 540	85 200	97 389	48 375	7 747	34 550	140	965	517 905
1942	248 118	96 579	92 588	47 684	7 704	35 607	140	999	529 419
1943	225 682	94 441	97 054	49 277	7 827	45 011	140	864	520 296
1944	243 768	89 093	88 159	52 374	8 131	47 730	140	868	530 262
1945	203 521	80 352	81 066	48 402	7 405	39 391	140	800	461 076
1946	195 749	69 127	78 585	33 387	7 411	39 457	70	889	424 675
1947	196 236	89 393	65 689	42 194	7 549	40 939	138	924	443 063
1948	191 536	90 507	69 656	52 822	6 952	43 278	138	802	455 690
1949	210 110	92 570	71 058	52 121	7 641	45 101	138	897	479 636
1950	233 622	102 170	73 599	54 998	7 692	44 856	104	963	518 003
1951	223 229	99 005	70 156	56 874	7 825	48 690	107	1028	506 912
1952	198 602	102 040	62 944	61 455	9 305	54 614	114	801	489 874
1953	252 450	114 395	74 004	71 967	8 984	58 128	151	1018	581 097
1954	247 180	101 370	79 114	66 002	9 125	60 982	132	1032	564 938
1955	245 386	114 925	80 082	70 653	10 794	58 814	141	1012	581 807
1956	269 306	123 993	88 004	78 788	10 624	70 967	178	1056	642 918
1957	299 530	135 885	103 268	85 643	13 009	70 943	157	1114	709 549
1958	252 784	134 487	92 704	84 298	13 234	71 796	132	968	650 401
1959	310 344	135 555	99 405	84 751	14 803	75 534	88	1144	721 623
1960	324 524	146 511	107 138	89 943	15 241	77 312	75	1315	762 059
1961	301 314	146 063	106 863	80 474	14 456	86 797	71	1121	737 159
1962	318 048	150 012	104 478	93 888	15 635	87 164	44	1200	770 469
1963	314 676	143 656	105 977	94 051	15 677	83 518	45	1063	758 663
1964	331 723	151 632	115 842	95 482	15 425	98 237	41	1158	809 541
1965	320 267	163 989	114 046	97 857	17 995	93 910	40	1123	809 227
1966	262 848	166 444	87 441	105 369	18 987	112 279	40	850	754 257
1967	282 475	171 667	92 381	108 501	19 574	123 639	40	1113	799 391
1968	295 029	150 788	102 886	99 316	17 376	136 183	51	1015	802 643
1969	305 512	165 267	112 041	108 011	21 299	170 394	50	934	883 506
1970	340 125	196 213	89 065	124 741	21 861	152 624	50	1159	925 839
1971	314 317	201 287	76 554	116 149	21 671	158 969	36	1000	889 983
1972	281 759	197 512	83 160	119 234	21 063	178 162	24	822	881 736
1973	226 186	172 323	70 196	100 931	18 153	146 860	10	555	735 214
1974	213 224	155 361	63 833	100 939	17 549	149 439	7	539	700 891
1975	254 268	165 543	66 262	107 983	18 888	179 975	14	546	793 479
1976	240 272	137 898	66 316	105 642	19 951	183 622	7	566	754 274
1977	232 883	126 143	64 395	94 344	18 107	166 375	2	484	702 733
1978	230 991	131 634	59 272	86 320	18 924	149 402	0*	474	677 017
1979	239 649	138 672	63 831	87 391	19 078	155 142	1	494	704 258
1980	232 476	147 366	59 001	97 921	20 003	151 329	0*	411	708 507
1981	220 605	146 279	46 520	102 768	20 049	164 540	0*	389	701 150
1982	234 650	147 587	60 433	103 617	21 783	148 749	0*	389	717 208
1983	238 815	132 428	54 090	103 007	21 680	151 299	0*	414	701 738
1984	248 874	142 073	65 607	108 609	21 887	144 747	0*	465	732 262



GREASY WOOL  
PRODUCTION BY STATE,  
1860-1980

NOTE In 1850-59, wool exports are assumed to equal total production of greasy wool for all colonies. To 1880, wool production is the sum of greasy and scoured wool; thereafter, it is greasy wool equivalents.

(a) The collection date for all colonies and states prior to 1902 was 31 Dec. From 1902 onwards, it was 30 June, except NSW, Vic, Tas, NT 1916-47 (31 Mar); Qld 1903-15 (31 Dec), 1916-36 (31 Mar), 1937-41 (31 Dec), 1942-47 (31 Mar); SA 1954-65 (31 Mar); WA 1916-49 (31 Dec), 1950-65 (31 Mar); ACT 1929-47 (31 Mar). 31 Dec always refers to previous year.

(b) Included in SA until 1890. In 1890-1909, wool exports are assumed to equal total production of greasy wool.

(c) 1911-28 included in NSW.

(d) Absence of data for NT means that Aust total is slightly understated.

(e) 1915 no data collected.

## AG 82-90 GROSS VALUE OF RURAL PRODUCTION, STATES AND TERRITORIES 1904-1984

Year 31 Dec.	NSW <sup>a</sup> \$m	Vic. \$m	Qld. \$m	SA \$m	Tas. \$m	WA <sup>b</sup> \$m	NT \$m	ACT \$m	Aust <sup>c</sup> \$m	Year 30 June	NSW <sup>a</sup> \$m	Vic. \$m	Qld. \$m	SA \$m	Tas. \$m	WA <sup>b</sup> \$m	NT \$m	ACT \$m	Aust <sup>c</sup> \$m
1904	44	36	22 <sup>d</sup>	17 <sup>d</sup>	6	6	..	..	..	1945	191	154	126	59	28	43	..	..	601
1905	45	40	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	1946	234	161	128	67	24	48	..	..	662
1906	63	44	29	17	6	..	..	..	..	1947	236	205	129	88	25	61	..	..	744
1907	66	44	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	1948	418	282	186	150	30	103	..	..	1169
1908	64	42	..	..	22	7	..	..	..	1949	408	294	224	129	34	110	..	..	1199
1909	70	48	..	..	23	7	..	..	..	1950	559	386	257	158	43	135	..	..	1538
1910	75	51	..	..	24	7	..	..	..	1951	870	572	360	253	65	225	..	..	2345
1911	74	52	..	..	24	7	..	..	..	1952	611	530	299	235	63	186	..	..	1924
1912	77	52	..	..	25	8	..	..	..	1953	789	583	412	280	68	199	..	..	2331
1913	82	55	..	..	21	6	..	..	..	1954	791	585	413	255	66	210	..	..	2320
1914	77	46	..	..	14	6	..	..	..	1955	694	595	416	240	71	186	5	3	2208
1915	103	64	..	..	30	10	..	..	..	1956	716	608	427	251	79	221	8	3	2313
1916	109	81	..	..	43	7	..	..	..	1957	815	648	486	305	72	216	6	4	2552
1917	113	81	..	..	37	7	19	..	..	1958	671	629	430	235	76	205	7	2	2257
1918	116	90	..	..	39	9	20	..	..	1959	790	645	479	280	72	231	9	3	2510
<i>30 June</i>																			
1920	131	103	..	..	43	11	29	..	..	1960	870	695	499	232	81	256	9	3	2646
1921	138	109	..	..	58	11	29	..	..	1961	850	740	504	294	77	267	11	3	2745
1922	116	91	..	..	37	11	24	..	..	1962	876	709	498	273	86	280	7	3	2734
1923	143	101	..	..	44	12	26	..	..	1963	976	754	575	295	88	293	7	3	2990
1924	145	96	..	..	51	12	31	..	..	1964	1112	855	660	359	101	301	8	4	3399
1925	178	105	..	..	54	12	39	..	..	1965	1141	883	628	361	104	296	7	4	3422
1926	134	85	..	..	48	12	34	..	..	1966	926	888	618	345	108	406	12	3	3316
1927	159	86	..	..	48	13	38	..	..	1967	1231	956	689	405	114	412	12	3	3825
1928	145	80	..	..	44	13	43	..	..	1968	983	810	679	306	110	429	15	3	3342
1929	150	93	..	..	42	13	40	..	..	1969	1221	927	792	409	117	468	19	3	3947
1930	113	70	..	..	35	12	39	..	..	1970	1164	973	702	385	111	371	22	3	3731
1931	84	54	..	..	26	10	30	..	..	1971	1063	916	675	345	107	502	30	3	3580
1932	91	63	..	..	35	10	32	..	..	1972	1118	1023	796	429	110	462	26	2	3968
1933	101	62	..	..	32	9	32	..	..	1973	1151	1227	942	503	147	574	32	4	4960
1934	94	67	35	11	36	..	..	..	..	1974	1192	1421	1062	772	163	1034	27	5	6412
1935	122	87	65	32	11	30	..	..	..	1975	1653	1294	1225	705	140	844	12	4	5876
1936	148	107	67	39	11	33	..	..	..	1976	1809	1259	1276	677	139	997	12	4	6172
1937	126	73	44	13	34	..	..	..	..	1977	1097	1367	1419	710	176	959	33	5	6757
1938	164	86	48	14	36	..	..	..	..	1978	2090	1558	1408	697	187	994	33	6	6972
1939	140	100	40	16	31	..	..	..	..	1979	3075	2152	2207	1079	256	1339	110	5	10224
1940	168	120	101	51	15	39	..	..	..	1980	3504	2587	2353	1342	268	1582	125	8	11764
1941	154	111	99	42	14	31	..	..	..	1981	3069	2751	2411	1321	274	1687	62	9	11584
1942	166	140	97	48	17	39	..	..	..	1982	3601	2818	2613	1429	300	1875	65	8	12708
1943	200	158	120	57	19	40	..	..	..	1983	2955	2581	2367	1194	339	2196	69	8	11708
1944	220	157	126	62	24	42	..	..	..	1984	4595	3437	3112	1786	352	1941	86	10	15317

NOTES Gross value is the value placed on recorded agricultural and pastoral production at the wholesale price realised in the principal market. In cases where primary products are consumed locally, or become raw material for a secondary industry, these points are presumed to be the principal markets.

(a) Figures before 1934 are for local value of production. Local value is the gross agricultural and pastoral production valued at the place of production and is ascertained by deducting marketing costs from gross value.

(b) 1914-33 includes trapping.

(c) 1906-33 Aust figure is recorded in the Commonwealth production bulletin, although the gross value of production is not recorded for some state and territories. In 1934-54, absence of data for NT and ACT means Aust is slightly understated.

(d) Excludes poultry and bee production.

## AGRICULTURE

AG 91-99 NET VALUE OF RURAL PRODUCTION, STATES AND TERRITORIES 1923-1972

Year 30 June	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	WA	NT	ACT	Aust <sup>a</sup>
	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
	\$m								
1923	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..
1924	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..
1925	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..
1926	..	..	..	35	9	..	..	..	..
1927	..	..	..	34	10	..	..	..	..
1928	..	..	..	31	9	..	..	..	..
1929	136	90	61	28	10	28	..	..	353
1930	98	67	59	21	8	24	..	..	277
1931	76	52	57	22	6	14	..	..	227
1932	83	61	48	24	7	19	..	..	242
1933	91	59	46	21	6	18	..	..	241
1934	112	69	53	24	8	22	..	..	288
1935	94	64	52	22	8	18	..	..	258
1936	115	82	55	27	8	22	..	..	309
1937	140	98	60	32	9	23	..	..	362
1938	123	94	69	33	10	22	..	..	351
1939	97	68	74	26	11	18	..	..	294
1940	127	88	83	37	11	26	..	..	372
1941	116	82	80	29	9	19	..	..	335
1942	125	103	79	32	12	25	..	..	376
1943	156	123	97	43	14	28	..	..	461
1944	172	122	102	46	17	29	..	..	488
1945	148	119	101	43	19	31	..	..	461
1946	183	118	103	50	16	35	..	..	505
1947	188	163	105	69	17	46	..	..	588
1948	347	231	151	127	20	84	..	..	960
1949	340	237	182	104	23	84	..	..	970
1950	484	319	209	133	30	107	..	..	1282
1951	791	495	297	217	48	190	..	..	2038
1952	514	432	244	194	41	141	..	..	1566
1953	668	463	335	226	46	146	..	..	1884
1954	660	470	334	203	44	155	..	..	1886
1955	565	465	336	194	51	129	4	2	1746
1956	580	477	337	202	60	158	6	2	1823
1957	676	509	398	253	53	153	5	3	2050
1958	515	479	325	177	56	137	6	2	1697
1959	620	485	371	201	50	153	8	2	1890
1960	692	536	390	172	52	176	8	3	2029
1961	644	579	381	208	49	183	9	2	2056
1962	667	530	370	205	51	196	6	3	2027
1963	755	591	439	219	54	203	6	3	2270
1964	881	687	515	275	64	216	7	3	2648
1965	880	694	470	271	69	209	6	3	2602
1966	664	714	451	258	65	302	10	2	2467
1967	902	739	508	300	73	296	10	3	2832
1968	701	592	495	214	63	96	13	2	2377
1969	871	702	577	294	69	323	16	2	2855
1970	847	754	509	284	74	232	19	3	2721
1971	758	707	495	253	70	300	21	2	2606
1972	825	752	604	319	77	318	22	2	2919

NOTE Net value represents the return to the producer after deducting marketing and production costs other than depreciation and maintenance charges. It was not calculated by the ABS after 1972.

(a) In 1929-54, absence of data for NT and ACT means that Aust total is slightly understated.

GROSS AND NET VALUE OF RURAL PRODUCTION IN AUSTRALIA, 1927-1972

