

Maize Report 2017

Past year 16/17 was a good season for maize in Murrumbidgee & Coleambally. A good start & cool growing conditions up to Christmas was ideal for most crops & yields reflected that across all varieties.

Very steady year for maize with around 600,000 tons grown in Australia, this being mainly consumed domestically.

Pop corn increased its area in this region last season, which was a reflection on its better financial returns per hectare & doesn't require as much water as main stream varieties. Need to continually check grain moisture in lead up to harvest to hit target grain moisture though which can prove a little bit tricky (14 to 19%).

Waxy & High Amylose will again be sought after by Ingredion out of area, mainly Coleambally. They will be looking for around about 30,000 tons again. This is governed by wet mill capacity at Lane Cove. Some good news on High Amylose with around 2,000 tons of whole grain exported to Italy & Spain. Feedback from those counties is very positive as it is far superior quality grain. There are new varieties of both waxy & high amylose very close to release achieving superior yields then current varieties.

Grits look like being about same price as last year. This will be consumed by domestic market mostly contracted to buyers.

Prime Maize is sluggish mainly due to down turn in dairy industry however hopefully things can pick up in that regard. Maize makes up big part of dairy cow ration both grain & silage with its good metabolisable energy ratio.

Cotton hectares are pushing Maize south down into Murray region and in particular traditional tomato growing areas (Rochester region) where its being grown as a rotational crop achieving very good yields.

Maize growth depends on export growth which is proving challenging to say the least, there is still a big demand for non GM Maize in Asia. Australian Maize is G M free and also gluten free. The Aussie dollar plays a big part of course but Asian buyers are reluctant to commit to forward price. We need to somehow change that thought pattern.

Maize varieties continue to improve in both yield & quality especially grits. The MAA has instigated a yield competition this year to highlight this. Winners will be announced at MAA AGM later in the year, with the date yet to be set. For more information on this and Maize in particular, jump on web and Google Maize Association of Australia.

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