AGCONNEX

GROWER UPDATE: AUGUST 2026

LATEST NEWS

AgConnex secures $4 million NSW grant co-funding to further upgrade its rail loading, storage and processing capability at Wumbulgal.

Read the full story here.

🚜 THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE

Market Snapshot

Commodity	Nearby Price ($/t)	Month Change ($/t)	Market Tone
APW Wheat	*$350*	***$15***	*Firmer*
ASW Wheat	*$350*	***$15***	*Firmer*
Barley	*$305*	***$5***	*Neutral*
Cotton Seed	*$550*	***$10***	*Firmer*

📈 ***Wheat:*** The Black Sea export market continues to face significant disruption, with Russian and Ukrainian port infrastructure and vessels heavily impacted. Freight rates and war-risk insurance premiums remain elevated, adding further pressure to export costs. Southeast Asian importers have responded by cancelling some Black Sea cargoes and actively looking for alternative origins.

Closer to home, the key development across the southern growing regions has been the broadly favourable rainfall received across South Australia, Victoria and southern NSW through late July and early August. This has encouraged growers to bring a significant volume of old-crop grain to market, increasing available supply and adding to market activity.

📈 ***Barley:*** Northern barley markets strengthened through July, with Darling Downs values rising $15–$20/t and the Riverina following by around $5-$10/MT as demand from the north extended into the MIA. However, the Downs can only absorb so much grain, and after a strong two-week rally, southern markets have started to soften. Weaker Chinese buying interest has reduced urgency, while strong wheat demand and ongoing Black Sea disruptions are limiting East Coast barley export opportunities, particularly from Victoria.

📈 ***Cotton seed:*** Cottonseed markets were steady to firmer over the past month, with MIA values rising from $540/t to $550/t. Ginning is nearing completion across most valleys, and trade has focused on managing logistics and storage capacity. Demand remains slow due to higher prices and recent rain, while southern supply is expected to be tighter following the smaller crop. With ginning now largely complete, liquidity is likely to slow, and price direction will depend on fresh demand entering the market.

Growing Conditions Across the State

Regional Observations

MIA Agronomy Update, Kieran Andreatta - Yenda Producers

A very mild winter has resulted in great biomass production across the district, despite rainfall remaining well below historical averages. The combination of warmer temperatures and timely moisture early in the season has driven strong crop growth and canopy development. This growth has also increased disease pressure, regardless of IDM strategies, especially in barley and canola crops, (although we anticipate other cereal and pulse crops to show disease soon) where dense canopies have provided a favourable microclimate for diseases to develop. Input costs continue to influence decisions. The impacts of the Strait of Hormuz being closed has been the key culprit, particularly through fertiliser markets. Fertiliser price rising sharply following the outbreak of the war reduced availability of urea from major exporting regions. Thankfully, fertiliser prices have softened considerably since, and the easing in prices this season has encouraged growers to maintain adequate nutrition programs and support crop yield potential where available moisture allows. However, uncertainty remains with how volatile the fertiliser market has proven to be. Dryland producers have relied heavily on whatever stored soil moisture was available at planting, if applicable, and sporadic rainfall events to sustain crop growth, with many crops beginning to show symptoms of moisture stress prior to the last rain. Irrigated growers have also faced challenges, with higher water prices making them question the profitability of watering. However, recent precipitation across the region have provided welcome relief, improving crop condition and providing some moisture to support grain fill. Further rainfall will be required through late winter and spring to maximise yield potential and support grain quality outcomes. Growers set up with irrigation have welcomed recent supplementary water events from the rainfall upstream, easing the burden of water price.

Scotch Wheat – Benerembah NSW

Rainfall Snapshot

Location	Rainfall (mm) YTD 13/07/26	Rainfall (mm) YTD
Griffith	127	158.8
Temora	324	379.4
Moree	163	210.6
Gunnedah	209	248.2
Forbes	327	390
Swan Hill	271	315.4
Mildura	255.5	323

Rainfall has improved across most districts since mid-July, with Forbes adding 63mm to reach 390mm YTD, while Temora has climbed to 379.4 mm. Further south, Swan Hill and Mildura sit at 315.4 and 323mm respectively. The northern districts remain drier, with Moree at 210.6mm and Gunnedah at 248.2mm, highlighting the need for follow-up falls as spring approaches.

SITE & OPERATIONS UPDATE

What's Happening Across AgConnex

There's plenty happening across AgConnex as we continue to improve our sites and prepare for the upcoming harvest.

Following last month's announcement of NSW Government funding to support the development of WR Connect, initial works are now underway at Wumbulgal. To support the project and invest in ongoing site improvements, surface upgrades around the silo complex and access roads have recently been completed. This includes a new hardstand and all-weather roads designed to streamline access and traffic movement throughout the site. Construction of our newly designed bunkers is also well underway, with further developments planned as the WR Connect project continues to progress.

Alongside these larger developments, our teams have been busy with pre-harvest maintenance and site improvements across the network.

Construction of Carrathool's new sample stand is now complete, streamlining site intake and testing. At the same time, continued investment in staff training has enabled more of our team to complete their Authorised Officer (AO) training, further strengthening our in-house grain quality, sampling and container export capabilities. A special congratulations to Kayla Snow on achieving her AO qualification! We also wish our other team members all the best as they continue their AO training in the coming weeks.

It's an exciting time across AgConnex, with plenty happening both on site and behind the scenes. We look forward to sharing more of the developments underway at Wumbulgal as they are completed, while continuing to ensure our sites are ready to provide growers with an efficient and reliable service this harvest.

📊 MARKET OPPORTUNITY OF THE MONTH

AgConnex Insight: Consider Your 2026/27 Grain Marketing Strategy

With harvest approaching, now is a good time to review current 2026/27 season bids and consider whether locking in a portion of your expected production could be right for your business.

Prices have strengthened recently, particularly in wheat, with concerns around Black Sea supply and ongoing geopolitical tensions providing support to global markets. The Australian market has followed this movement, creating improved opportunities for growers to lock in new crop pricing. However, any resolution or easing of the situation in the Black Sea could see some of these recent gains unwind, highlighting the importance of considering price risk while current opportunities are available.

Selling some new crop ahead of harvest can provide greater price certainty and reduce the risk of having to sell your entire crop at harvest, while still allowing you to retain some grain in case market opportunities improve later in the season. There's no need to sell everything taking a staged approach can help spread your price risk and provide flexibility as the season progresses.

AgConnex provides daily price updates across all four of our sites, along with delivered market opportunities as they become available. If you're not currently receiving our daily price text messages, please contact the AgConnex team to be added to our list.

👉 **Talk to our team**

🧠 GRAIN KNOWLEDGE HUB

Quick Reminder

If you're still holding grain in on-farm storage, now is the time to check it. Regular monitoring for stored grain insects can help protect grain quality and avoid costly downgrades when it's time to sell. Inspect silos at least monthly using a grain sieve or probe trap, check grain temperature, and look for any signs of insect activity or mould. Good aeration helps keep grain cool, slowing insect development, while maintaining clean silos and equipment reduces the risk of infestations. Early detection is the best defence and can help ensure your grain is delivered in marketable condition when the right marketing opportunity arises.

👉 **Talk to our team**

AgConnex – Your Trusted Grain Connection

Connecting regional grain producers with storage, handling, transport and end-user markets across the Riverina. For more details and pricing, please contact:

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