



Perspektief | Perspective

Nuusbrief | Newsletter

31/07/2015 WEEK 31 - 2015

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IT'S RAINING PROPERLY IN THE CAPE

Toit Wessels, Communication and Member Marketing, Cape Province, Grain SA

» Conditions in the Cape improved dramatically during the last month and with it came the realisation of how tough a wheat plant really is. The Southern Cape (Riversdale / Heidelberg / Swellendam) is looking beautiful with Canola in full bloom, good-looking barley and wheat crops coming into ear. The cold, and especially the frost during the previous two weeks might have caused some damage and is still somewhat of a concern, as many of the grains are still in full bloom. Besides this, pastures in the area have also improved and the lucerne looks good.

The 'Ruens' region (Bredasdorp/Caledon) is fairly wet, with very wet conditions in the 'Strandveld' with the possibility of a little damage caused by waterlogged fields. Nonetheless, the grains in this region look good and although a bit slower than usual, good recovery of the pastures is already noticeable.

The 'Swartland' is definitely later than the last 5 years, but conditions have improved tremendously. The top fertiliser applied with the rain of the past month boosted the wheat and the fields appear lush. The wheat may not grow very high this year, but with good follow-up rain, good yields can still be expected. However, the recovery of the pastures remains slow.

Although the harvesting period is still some time away, there is definitely more optimism noticeable amongst producers than a month ago.

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DELIVERY PROGRESS OF MAIZE – 2015/16 MARKETING SEASON

Petru Fourie, Research Coordinator & Production Cost Analyst, Grain SA

» The harvesting of maize, particularly in the western parts of South Africa, started approximately 3 weeks earlier than normal due to the impact of the drought conditions. As a result, the pace of maize deliveries is much faster than during a normal season. The rate, at which producer deliveries are taking place, can be compared to a similar season, namely 2012/13, which was also a dry year. It is however important to keep in mind that every season is unique with its own circumstances and that the current rate of producer deliveries will not necessarily correspond.

The progress of the maize deliveries, as announced by SAGIS, is compared to the size of the 6th crop estimate of the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) in Table 1 below.

NB: Please note that the figures in the table below take into account the retention on farms and own use, since it is not delivered to local infrastructures.

White maize: Together with early deliveries, thus far 3,669 million tons (81.1%) of the estimated 4,484 million tons white maize crop (retentions excluded) have been delivered.

Yellow maize: Currently, during the same period 4,251 million tons (90.7%) of the estimated 4,689 million tons yellow

maize crop (retentions excluded) have been delivered.

Total maize: The total deliveries for both white and yellow maize, for the first thirteen weeks of the 2015/16 marketing year amounts to 7,920 million tons and together with the early deliveries in March and April 2015 (541 956 tons) it amounts to 86.3% of the estimated 9.172 million tons crop.

Table 1: Progress of maize deliveries - 2015/16 marketing season (tons)

	White maize	Yellow maize	TOTAL
Early deliveries (March & April)	174,836	367,120	541,956
Marketing season deliveries (Week 1 to 13)	3,494,135	3,884,155	7,378,290
Total deliveries (Week 1 to 13 plus early deliveries)	3,668,971	4,251,275	7,920,246
CEC: 6th Production forecast	4,649,800	5,105,500	9,755,300
MINUS: Farm usage, seed retention, etc.	165,910	416,900	582,810
Crop Estimate MINUS farm usage, seed retention etc.	4,483,890	4,688,600	9,172,490
% Maize delivered	81.8%	90.7%	86.3%
% Maize delivered during the same period in the 2012/13 season	87.9%	96.6%	88.9%

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GRAIN SA CREATES FURTHER AWARENESS

» In an ongoing effort to raise awareness about agriculture and the importance of grain production in the country, we are proud to report that these efforts started paying off. During NAMPO 2015, Grain SA launched a campaign which included flying members of the English media to the NAMPO Harvest Day in order to create awareness about the agricultural sector and about Grain SA's operations and strategic intent. As a result of this proactive action, Grain SA experienced a huge increase in the English media coverage during the month of May 2015 and also on prominent English radio stations.

These initiatives ensure that citizens residing in urban areas are informed about the importance of agriculture and the impact policy decisions such as the 50/50 proposal could have.

Please click on one of the links below to listen to the radio report as broadcasted on 702 Talk Radio, or to read one of the published articles.

[Eye Witness News radio clip \(Live\)](#)

[News24 report](#)

[Business Report report](#)

[Fin24 report](#)

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GUIDELINES FROM THE FIRE ASSOCIATIONS

» Guidelines for the prevention of fires during prevailing dry conditions can be found on the link below:

[Key points as described by the fire associations](#)

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MOMENTUM PRODUCT STILL REMAINS VERY COMPETITIVE

Willem Voogt, Manager: Marketing & Finance, Grain SA

» Through an exciting new partnership, Grain SA and Momentum now offer an innovative financial wellness solution exclusively to our members and their farmworkers. This solution allows employers to provide for the key needs of farmworkers across various salary groups.

