CROP ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

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CALCULATED FINAL CROP OF WINTER CROPS: 2004/05 PRODUCTION SEASON

CROP	FINAL AREA PLANTED 2004/05 HA	FINAL CROP 2004/05 TONS	CEC AREA PLANTED 2004/05 HA	CEC FINAL ESTIMATE 2004/05 TONS
Wheat[1)]	830 000	1 680 000	829 200	1 699 280
Malting barley	83 200	185 000	82 650	189 365
Canola	44 250	32 000	45 500	34 250
Sweet lupines	7 100	3 950	7 100	3 950

1) 1) Consisting of 1 640 000 tons of producer deliveries and 39 500 tons of wheat retained on farms.

CEC = Crop Estimates Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

FINALISATION OF WINTER CROP PRODUCTION FOR 2004/05

The Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) held its meeting on 5 May 2005 to discuss the finalisation of winter crops for the 2004/05 production season.

The total estimated production figures were revised using the actual SAGIS delivery figures as the basis for the calculations. Provision was made for grain still to be delivered from the 2004/05 production season. Retentions of grain on farms as determined by the Department of Agriculture's survey were also added to the SAGIS delivery figures.

For example, in the case of wheat the SAGIS delivery figures from October 2004 to March 2005 amount to 1 611 865 tons. Provision was also made for an estimated 28 635 tons of wheat still to be delivered until the end of September 2005. Therefore, the estimated deliveries for 2004/05 are set at 1 640 500 tons. However, according to the survey conducted by the Directorate: Agricultural Statistics during April 2005, the retentions of wheat on farms amount to 39 500 tons. The total wheat crop was therefore determined by adding the retentions figure of 39 500 tons (2,35%) to the estimated delivery figure of 1 640 500 tons (97,6%) – a total of 1 680 000 tons. Comparing the re-calculated wheat figure with the figure set by the Crop Estimates Committee during February 2005, the Committee has over-estimated the commercial maize crop by 19 280 tons or 1,15%.

It should be pointed out that the area planted to wheat was adjusted upwards, from 829 200 ha to 830 000 ha. The average yield is 2,02 t/ha.

The re-calculated malting barley crop is 185 000 tons and the re-calculated area planted to malting barley is 83 200 ha with an average yield of 2,22 t/ha.

The re-calculated canola crop is 32 000 tons, the area planted is 44 250 ha with an average yield of 0,72 t/ha.

Sweet lupines remained unchanged at 3 950 tons.

Industry role-players are once again requested to actively participate in the crop estimates process in order to continuously improve the figures.

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Also available on the internet at http://www.nda.agric.za/food security issues or http://www.sagis.org.za.