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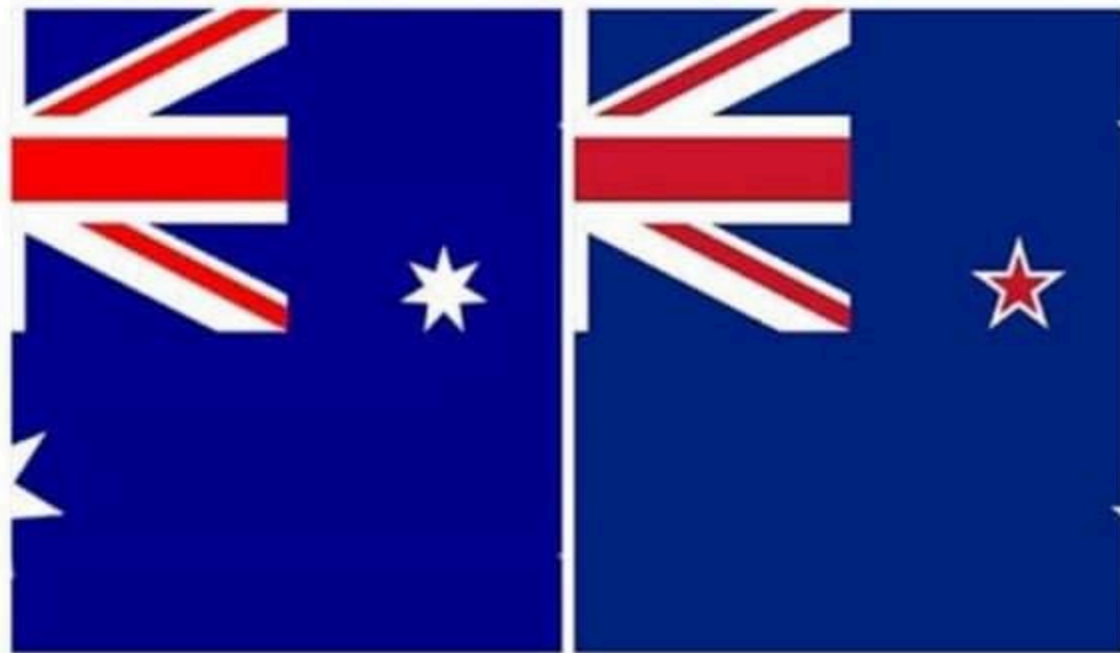
THE FARMER'S DIGEST

Your weekly dose of sport, tips, headlines & a good yarn
7 May 2026 | Edition #006 | Brought to you by AgPages

MEME OF THE WEEK

NZ: can I copy your homework?

Aus: sure just change it up a bit so it's not obvious



WEEKEND SPORT

AFL: Round 9

Fremantle host Hawthorn at Optus Stadium on Thursday night in what looks a genuine top-four clash, with the Hawks coming off a narrow Anzac Day win and Freo continuing their best start in years. Port Adelaide host the Western Bulldogs at Adelaide Oval on Friday, two sides going in very different directions. The Sunday standout is Geelong at the MCG against Collingwood, a game that will sort out both teams' September credentials. Collingwood have been patchy but scrappy all season, and the Cats need a response after Port put 30 points on them last round.

NRL: Round 10

Six of eight games have unanimous expert tips this week, which usually means the upsets land somewhere. The most watchable game is Rabbitohs vs Sharks at Accor Stadium Saturday arvo, a genuine coin flip with both sides hunting the top eight. The story of the round is the Melbourne Storm, who have now dropped seven straight for the first time in their history. They host the Tigers on Sunday and need a win badly. Jason Taumalolo also plays his 300th NRL game for the Cowboys this weekend, a milestone that deserves more noise than it is getting.

Super Rugby Pacific: Round 13

Four rounds left and the finals picture is tightening. The blockbuster is Crusaders vs Blues in Christchurch on Friday night, potentially deciding second spot on the ladder and home final advantage. Queensland Reds host the Chiefs at Suncorp on Saturday arvo and a win puts them firmly inside the top three. The Waratahs need to beat the Highlanders to keep their season alive, but they are doing it without skipper Matt Philip and Joey Walton. It could be a long night in Sydney.

NRL TIPPING: ROUND 10

Game	Tip	Win%	Decimal Odds	EP
Dolphins vs Bulldogs	Dolphins	65%	1.50	0.98
Roosters vs Titans	Roosters	80%	1.22	0.98
Cowboys vs Eels	Cowboys	81%	1.30	1.05
Dragons vs Knights	Knights	74%	1.38	1.02
Rabbitohs vs Sharks	Sharks	44%	2.26	0.99
Sea Eagles vs Broncos	Sea Eagles	68%	1.55	1.05
Storm vs Tigers	Storm	74%	1.35	1.00
Raiders vs Panthers	Panthers	60%	1.65	0.99

EP = Expected Points (decimal odds x win probability). Values above 1.0 represent value bets. Best value this round: Cowboys (\$1.30, 81%) and Sea Eagles (\$1.55, 68%). Punt of note: Sharks as value outsider at \$2.26 with 44% actual chance. Odds from Sportsbet. This is a tipping guide, not betting advice.

PUNT OF THE WEEK

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Feature Race: The Goodwood (Group 1, \$1,000,000), Morphettville, Saturday 9 May, 1200m

The Tip: TYCOON STAR (\$8, barrier 16)

Won the Group 2 Tobin Bronze Stakes at Morphettville last start carrying 57.5kg, sitting wide throughout. Drops 3kg for this under Set Weights conditions. Lindsay Park co-trainer Ben Hayes put visors back on and switched to James McDonald, who rode him to his first South Australian winner. The widest gate is the only concern, but track analysts say barrier draw at Morphettville in a sprint is less decisive than most circuits. At \$8 he is well overpriced for a horse who just won a lead-up race at the same course.

Note: Extragalactic (\$6, barrier 6) and Rey Magnerio (\$5, barrier 5) are the market leaders for good reason. If you want the favourite, Rey Magnerio drawn perfectly with Willie Pike is the short-priced option.

Source: Just Horse Racing, The Beaten Favourite. Odds correct as of 6 May 2026.

Just a punt guide, not financial advice. AgPages is a farming marketplace, not a bookmaker.

THIS WEEK IN FARMING

THIS WEEK IN FARMING: OPINION

The forecast said dry. Then 50mm fell. Good.

A fortnight ago the BOM had southern Australia pencilled in for a drier-than-average autumn. Then 15 to 50mm fell across SA, Vic and southern NSW over the weekend. Warm soil underneath it. Near-perfect germination timing.

That swing matters beyond the obvious. It is a useful reminder that the season can turn fast in either direction, and that planning for the upside is not optimism, it is just good management.

The bigger story this week is the ABARES picture. Farm profits are expected to ease from what was shaping up as a record \$101 billion year, and the risk they are flagging is not drought or commodity prices. It is fertiliser. Supply constraints, elevated costs, and the real possibility that growers trim application rates to protect margins. Their modelling has output falling 25 to 30 per cent in a severe scenario purely on reduced inputs.

That is the number worth paying attention to. Not the seasonal outlook. Not the wheat price.

The farms that hold yield in a tight season are almost always the ones that protected their inputs and found their cost savings somewhere else: tighter logistics, better-planned runs, not wasting a week chasing contractors who were already booked. The ones that cut fertiliser to save money and then got a decent season regret it every time.

The rain fell. The soil is warm. The question now is whether you are set up to use it or whether you spend the next few weeks scrambling to pull a plan together.

By Cameron, Co-founder | AgPages

HEADLINES

1. 15-50mm falls across SA, Vic and southern NSW boost seeding prospects

Why it matters: The timing is near-perfect with warm soil and a drying forecast window behind it. Old crop wheat well bid through Victoria, but around 40% of Victorian wheat is still unmarketed. Good moisture, warm soil, liquidity may loosen up fast.

Source: Grain Central, 4 May 2026

2. ABARES flags 2026-27 farm profits to ease from record \$101bn high, drier autumn adding pressure

Why it matters: Profits are easing but coming from a record base. The real risk is fertiliser supply constraints reducing application rates. Banks are flagging early cash flow conversations as the smart move right now.

Source: Commonwealth Bank / ABARES, April 2026

3. SA growers call for access to higher strength bait as mouse activity rises

Why it matters: Mice are a perennial early-season headache. Worth keeping an eye on as the crop goes in. Growers in affected areas will want this locked down before germination.

Source: Stock Journal, May 2026

4. Next generation SA farmers reshaping agriculture through technology and diversification

Why it matters: Younger operators in the Murraylands are blending regenerative grazing, buffalo dairy, and agtech into viable businesses. Good reminder that diversification is not a buzzword, it is a survival strategy in a margin-compressed environment.

Source: InDaily SA, 6 May 2026

MARKET WRAP

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Grain

East coast wheat \$345/t current season, \$377/t new crop (track Geelong). Canola \$785/t current, \$825/t new crop. Barley \$318/t current season (Geelong). WA slightly softer: wheat \$345/t, barley \$350/t FIS Albany, canola \$800/t. Global Chicago wheat markets were largely directionless mid-week. US Hard Red Winter crop concerns persist but relief rallies are being tempered by strong French soft wheat conditions (81% good-to-excellent). Source: Grain Central, 4 May 2026.

Livestock

Cattle and sheep sectors are buffering global feed grain supply. Restocker demand remains firm, supporting lamb and sheep prices. Domestic feed demand continues to underpin barley and sorghum. MLA market reports show trade lamb holding steady. Source: MLA, ABARES.

Season

BOM had flagged drier-than-average autumn, but the weekend delivered 15-50mm across SA, Vic and southern NSW. Warm soil, early rain, improved germination outlook. Some forecasts are showing potential further falls in NNSW and southern Queensland. Source: BOM, Grain Central.

One Thing to Watch

Fertiliser supply constraints. ABARES modelling suggests reduced application rates could cut 2026-27 output by 25-30% in a severe scenario. Most broadacre operators are already factoring this in, but input timing is the variable to manage carefully over the next 4-6 weeks.

FROM AGPAGES

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If you are planning your winter cropping program, now is the time to lock in your spray and seeding contractors, not in four weeks when every rig in the district is already spoken for. With a wet start putting soil moisture in good shape across parts of SA, Vic and southern NSW, the seeding window could open fast. Get your job posted now so the right contractor can lock you in.

Post a job at agpages.com.au, it takes two minutes.