Wheat is the major winter crop grown in the district with 83,429 ha sown in 2001. District production average is 1.5t/ha. The crop is well suited to a wide range of soils particularly the deep clay soils with high moisture holding capacity. The area is noted for the production of Australian Prime Hard (APH) quality wheat. Classifications range from APH (Australian Prime Hard) with high quality requirements to Feed with lower quality requirements.

Flour milled from Australian Prime Hard wheat is used to produce high protein Chinese style yellow alkaline noodles and Japanese Ramen noodles of superior brightness, colour and eating quality. Australian Prime Hard flour is also suitable for the production of high protein, high volume breads and wanton dumpling skins. Australian wheat produces flours suitable for a wide range of baked products.

Barley is the second most widely grown winter crop with 4,291 ha sown in 2001. While Australian barley production only occupies 3% of the world barley production, Australian malting barley trade accounts for 30% of the world malting barley trade with the major competitors being Canada and the European Union. Barley has 3 major end uses: Feed grain - it is a preferred grain for many feedlots and stockfeed manufacturers. Malt barley - for the production of beer and other foodstuffs. Forage - for grazing, hay or silage.

Chickpeas are a winter crop and - because they are legumes - are very valuable as a rotation crop with other winter cereals such as wheat and barley. Good crops bring very good returns, but chickpeas require competent management and attention to detail. Chickpeas are pulses that are eaten cooked and whole or processed into a number of different foods including dahl. They are a much-loved food in the Middle East and the Sub-continent, and India is the largest buyer of Australian chickpeas.

Oats is the main winter forage crop. This is due to its ability to produce good quality feed when most pastures are dormant. Farmers rely on oats for livestock fattening during their finishing period from winter to early spring (eg. about 100 days). Compared with grazing on other pastures, oats produce better live-weight gain. The use of improved varieties and better management practices are the key factors to increasing the level of productivity of oat crops.

Lucerne is a valuable grazing legume, producing high protein forage throughout the year and finishing high quality livestock. Lucerne's value as a protein supplement is greatest in the winter when the quality of sown and native grasses is low. In southern inland Queensland, it is a significant contributor to both pasture and feedlot finishing of beef cattle and the production of prime lambs. When making active growth eg. in late spring, it will support up to 3 beef steers/ha and produce from 0.8-1.2 kg live weight/head/day. Production will vary with season and the choice of lucerne cultivar. Well adapted to deep, alkaline, cracking clay soils, lucerne may be sown as a short-term (2-4 year) rotation plant or with a grass in a long-term (5-10 year) pasture. Under irrigated conditions, lucerne hay is presently produced for both the domestic market and for own-farm use.

Hay production including sorghum, lucerne and stubble/failed crops is generally considered a relatively 'steady but sure' cropping enterprise. Hay production varies. In 2001 from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Agriculture Survey there was 1879 tonne of hay held on farm and another 2104 tonne sold in the year to June 30th.

Grain sorghum is the main summer grain crop with 7995ha planted in 2001. It plays a key role in providing feed grains to the beef, dairy, pig and poultry industries. It is a good rotation crop that tolerates heat and moisture stress and performs.