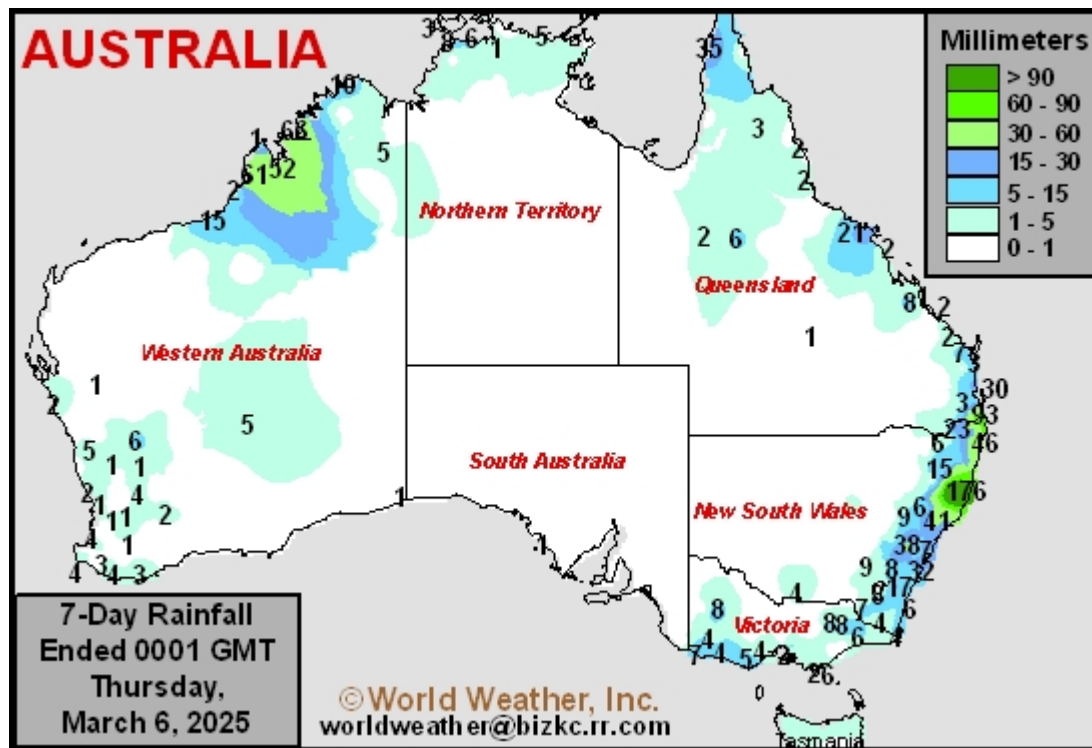


Australia Summer Grain, Oilseed Harvest To Advance Swiftly

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 6 (World Weather Inc.) – Harvesting is underway in some of the early season summer grain and oilseed production areas in Australia with cotton harvesting to begin at the end of this month and in early April. *The main production areas in eastern Australia were dry or received minimal rain during the past week. Maturation and harvest conditions were generally favorable as a result of the dryness.* Spotty rain will occur at times in portions of New South Wales, Victoria, and southeastern Queensland through the middle of next week. In the meantime, *there will be no major impacts from Tropical Cyclone Alfred as it enters eastern Australia near Brisbane, Queensland today and prevails for a few days. Minor harvest delays will be possible, though no major impacts are expected.*

A few locations in western Victoria received up to 0.32 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. However, much of Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland were dry. South Australia and much of Western Australia also received little or no rain. *Unirrigated cropland remains very short of soil moisture and there have been periods of crop stress recently because of the dry and warm to hot conditions of late.*



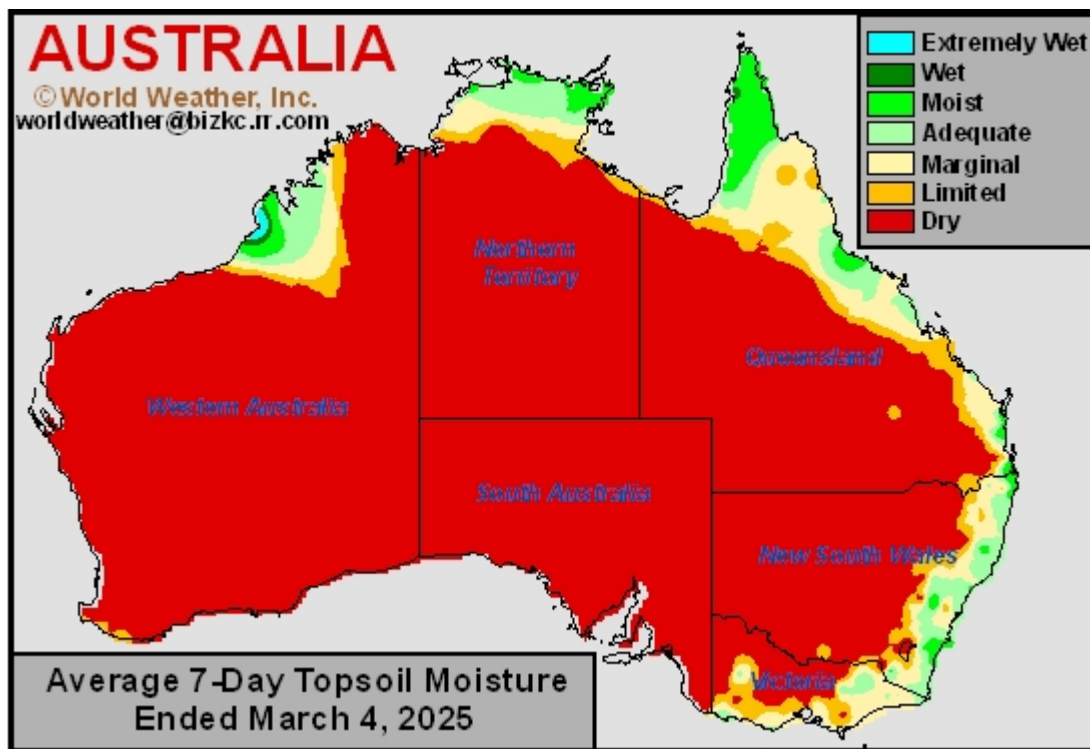
The lack of rain in recent weeks was beneficial for early season summer grain and oilseeds. Maturation and early-season harvesting normally begins in February or March and continues through May or early June. Sorghum yields are expected to trend slightly above the ten-year average according to the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), despite the drying trend later in the growing season.

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Most locations received enough rain earlier in the growing season to support aggressive development pushing yields higher and reducing the impact of late season heat and dryness.

Tropical Cyclone Alfred was located off the eastern Australia coastline earlier this morning. The disturbance will make landfall near Brisbane, Queensland early Friday morning and will meander across east-central and southeastern Australia through the end of the weekend. Alfred will slowly weaken once making landfall and will lose its tropical characteristics by Sunday. Remnants of Alfred may then track near the southeastern Australia coastline early next week before dissipating. Heavy rain will occur near and east of the Great Dividing Range, making the impact on key production areas minimal.

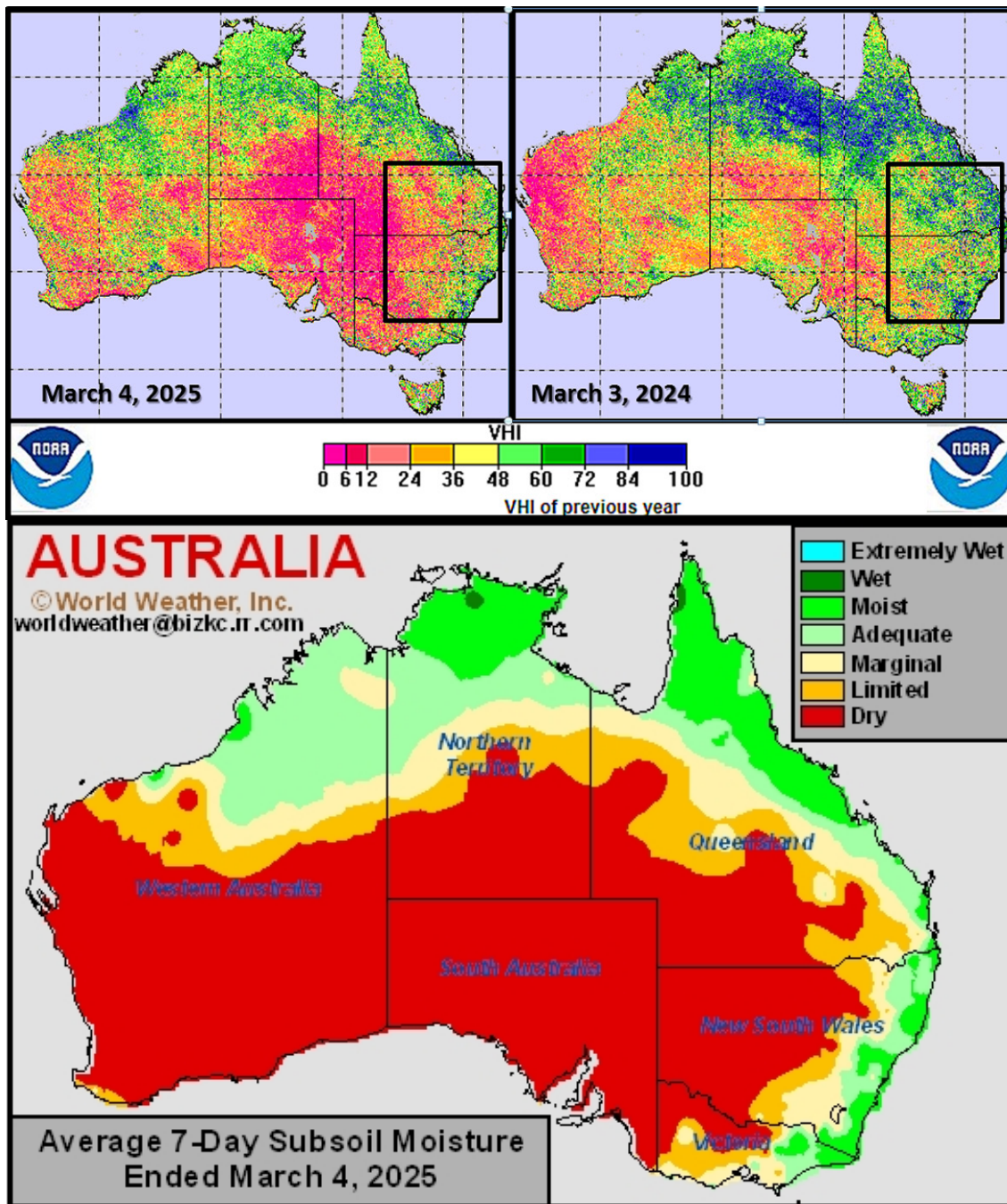
Scattered showers will otherwise advance into eastern Australia this weekend and the first part of next week as a weak disturbance enters the region. Rainfall by next Thursday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.50 inch in portions of New South Wales and southeastern Queensland, though many areas will miss out on the rain. A few locations in eastern New South Wales could receive 1.50 inches or more of rain as well. South Australia and Western Australia will otherwise receive little or no rain during the coming week. Queensland and New South Wales will then have a few opportunities for rain March 14 – 20. Western Australia could also see periods of spotty rain. South Australia and Victoria will likely trend drier than normal.



Maturation and harvesting should continue under relatively good conditions in eastern Australia during the coming week. Minor fieldwork impacts will be possible due to the rain over the weekend and first part of next week, though no major delays are expected. Harvest conditions should remain relatively good toward mid-March as well despite the threat for more spotty rain.

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Winter wheat, barley, and canola planting usually begins in late April or May in southern Australia leaving plenty of time for better rainfall to improve soil moisture for early-season planting.



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