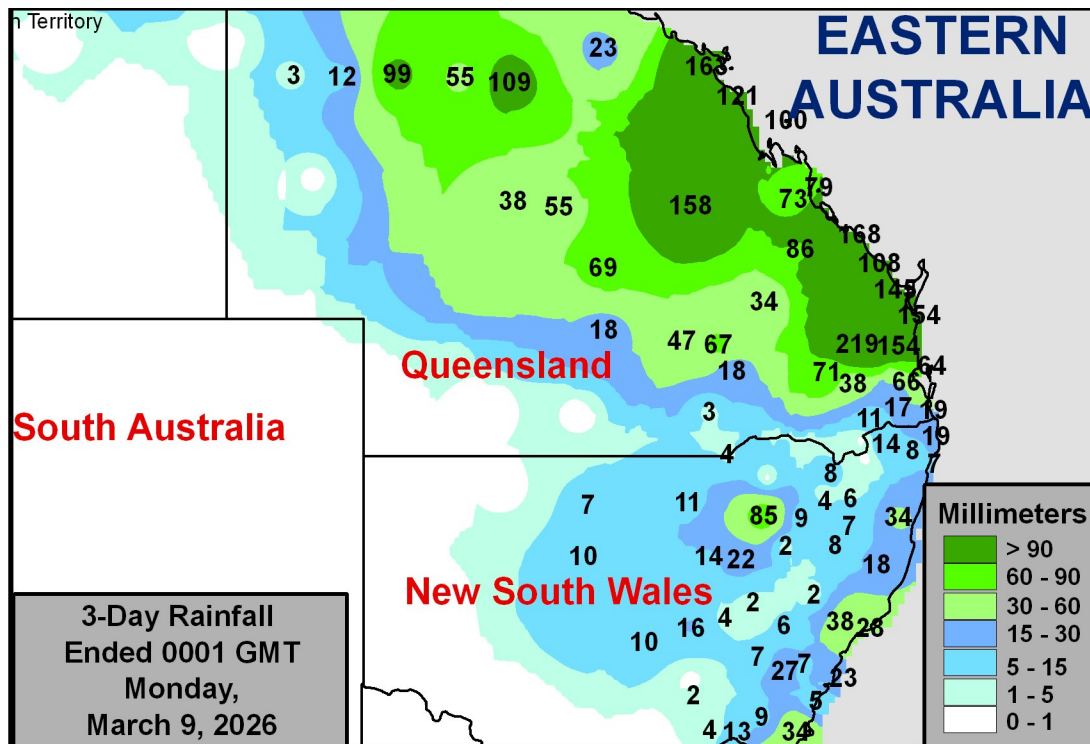


# Queensland, Australia Floods From Tropical Deluge

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, March 9 (World Weather Inc.) – Computer forecast models predicted an excessive rain event for eastern Queensland most of last week and it finally arrived during the weekend producing copious amounts of rain in a relatively short period of time. Flooding impacted many agricultural areas especially from east-central through southeastern parts of the state. Cotton may have been more adversely impacted than other crops. Other areas in eastern Australia also received some rain during the weekend; though no flooding resulted.



Rain totals through dawn (Australia time) today varied from 3.00 to more than 8.62 inches in east-central and southeastern Queensland. The Kingaroy area of Queensland received the greatest amount of rain. Rain totals farther inland over central parts of the state varied from 1.50 to more than 4.00 inches and some of the heavy rain has since spread into the southeastern corner of the state and into a part of northeastern New South Wales.

Flooding caused some property damage and inundated a considerable amount of farmland. Coastal sugarcane areas were most impacted, although some of the eastern most cotton, sorghum, corn, peanuts and other crop areas in the state were also impacted. Damage potentials may have been greatest for open boll cotton where some fiber quality decline was strongly suspected.

Lighter rain fell in northeastern and central parts of New South Wales, though the impact on crops in that part of eastern Australia may have been more positive than negative. Most of the rain totals in New South Wales through dawn today varied from 0.15 to 0.88 inch with one location near Maryborough receiving 3.35 inches.

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*Flood warnings are in effect for much of eastern Queensland and some of the rivers in the region are expected to experience major flooding through mid-week this week. Most of the greatest rain is now over and improving weather is expected the remainder of the day today and on into mid-week.* Most crop areas in eastern and central Queensland and New South Wales will experience net drying conditions for the balance of this week. An assessment of the damage will be made as time moves along and the greatest impact agriculturally may be the loss of fiber quality for cotton. Flooding in sugarcane areas should begin to abate later this week and the crop should recover.

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