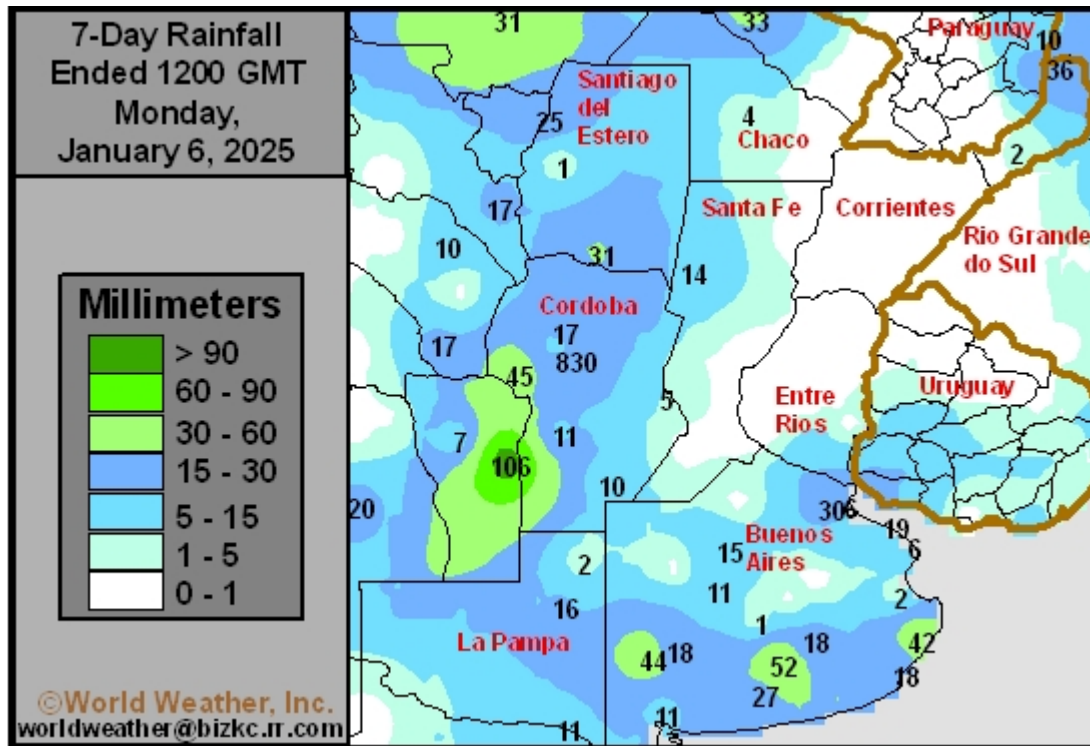


Argentina Drying To Be Accelerated By Heat; For How Long?

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, January 6 (World Weather Inc.) – Argentina dried out a little more aggressively during this past week in central and eastern parts of the nation, although subsoil moisture was still rated favorably. Similar conditions are expected through the end of this week. A building high pressure ridge this weekend and next week will induce hotter temperatures while the dry bias remains. Faster drying and rising crop stress will result next week as the situation in Argentina becomes a little more significant. No major production cuts are expected for now, though concern over production declines will increase if drier- and warmer-than-normal conditions persist during the second half of January and into February. Dryness will also impact Uruguay, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and Paraguay.

Rainfall varied across Argentina during the past week. San Luis, Cordoba. Santiago del Estero, La Pampa, and Buenos Aires saw a mix of erratic rain and sunshine. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.39 to 2.05 inches with a local amount of 4.17 inches in eastern San Luis. Portions of northern Buenos Aires and eastern Cordoba also received little or no rain. Pockets in Santa Fe and Chaco received 0.16 to 0.55 inch of rain during this time. The remaining production areas were mostly dry.



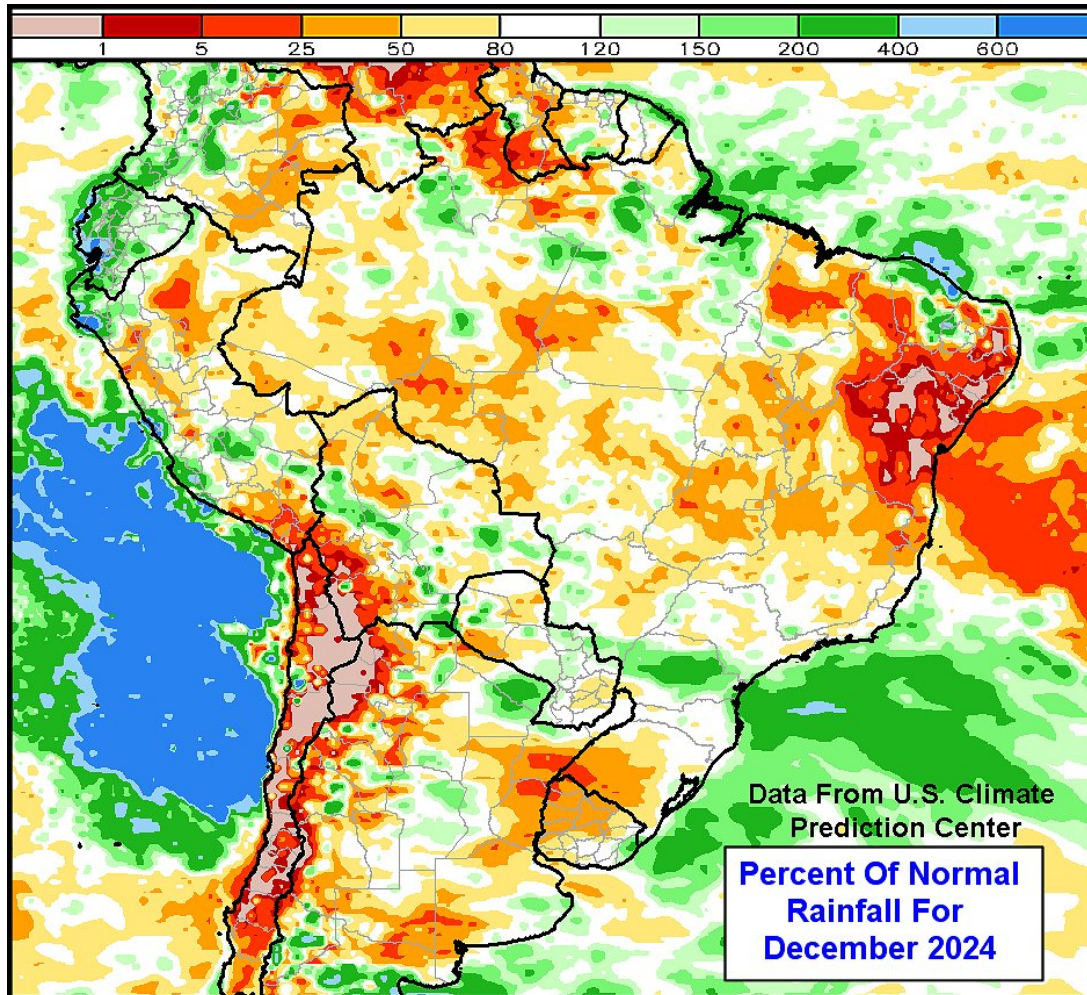
Temperatures were near to above normal with highest readings in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. Pockets in Santiago del Estero also warmed above 100 degrees. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in Buenos Aires cooling to the upper 40s.

Precipitation was generally below normal for Argentina in December. Formosa and portions of Chaco, Cordoba, San Luis, northern La Pampa, and southern Buenos Aires were the only areas that received near normal rainfall. Precipitation as a percent of normal in the

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remaining production areas ranged from 25% to 70% with drier pockets in northern Entre Rios.

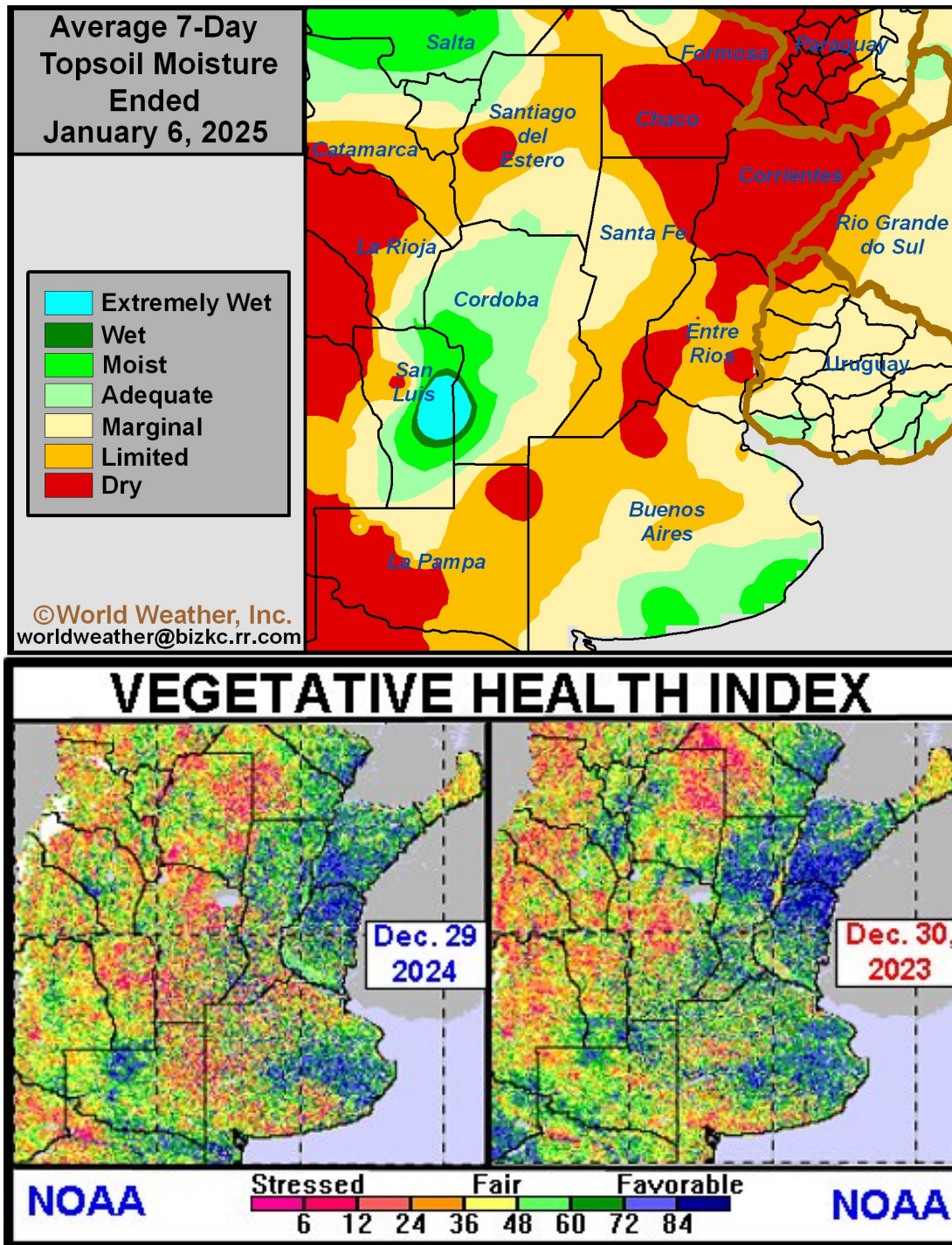
Topsoil moisture is rated shot to very short in a large section of crop country with Cordoba, San Luis and southeastern Buenos Aires experiencing the best moisture conditions for crop development. Subsoil moisture remains at adequate levels in most locations.



Planting is winding down for much of Argentina. As of January 2, soybean planting was 93% complete, ahead of 89% this time last year. Corn planting was 86% finished, slightly up from 84% last year. Sorghum planting was 70% complete. Planting of cotton and other grains and oilseeds was either complete or nearly complete. Winter wheat and barley harvesting was almost complete as well and should wrap up in the next few days.

Current crop conditions are relatively good in Argentina. Most locations outside portions of northern Argentina still have enough moisture to support establishment and growth despite uneven rainfall in recent weeks. However, **dryness is a growing concern and the need for rain is high. The main Pampas farming region does not have enough moisture to support ideal long-term crop development and many fields are already drying down enough to impact growth rates. Continued dryness in the coming weeks may impact overall production potentials.**

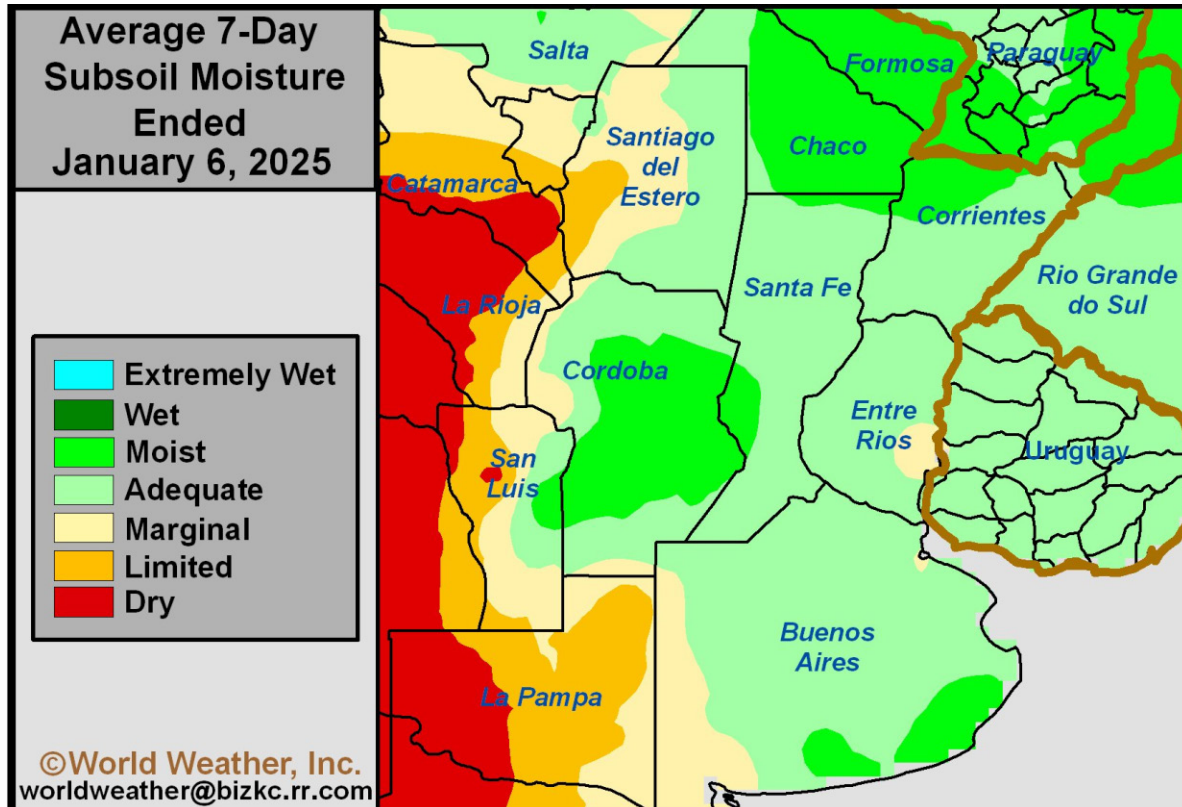
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Most of the dryness in Argentina began at the end of December and in this first week of January. The Vegetative Health Index shows a little more stress (or under developed vegetation) in La Pampa, northern Buenos Aires and southern Cordoba over that of late December 2023. Some of that may be a reflection of delayed planting earlier this season when dryness was prevailing. The more routinely occurring rainfall of recent weeks spurred on some aggressive crop development and should have improved crop conditions after a

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sluggish start to early season crop planting due to dryness. World Weather, Inc. does not believe much production potential has been lost thus far this season, but the hotter and drier weather coming up in the next ten days to two weeks will be quite stressful and if timely rain fails to evolve late this month and in February summer crops will be destined to be smaller yielding.

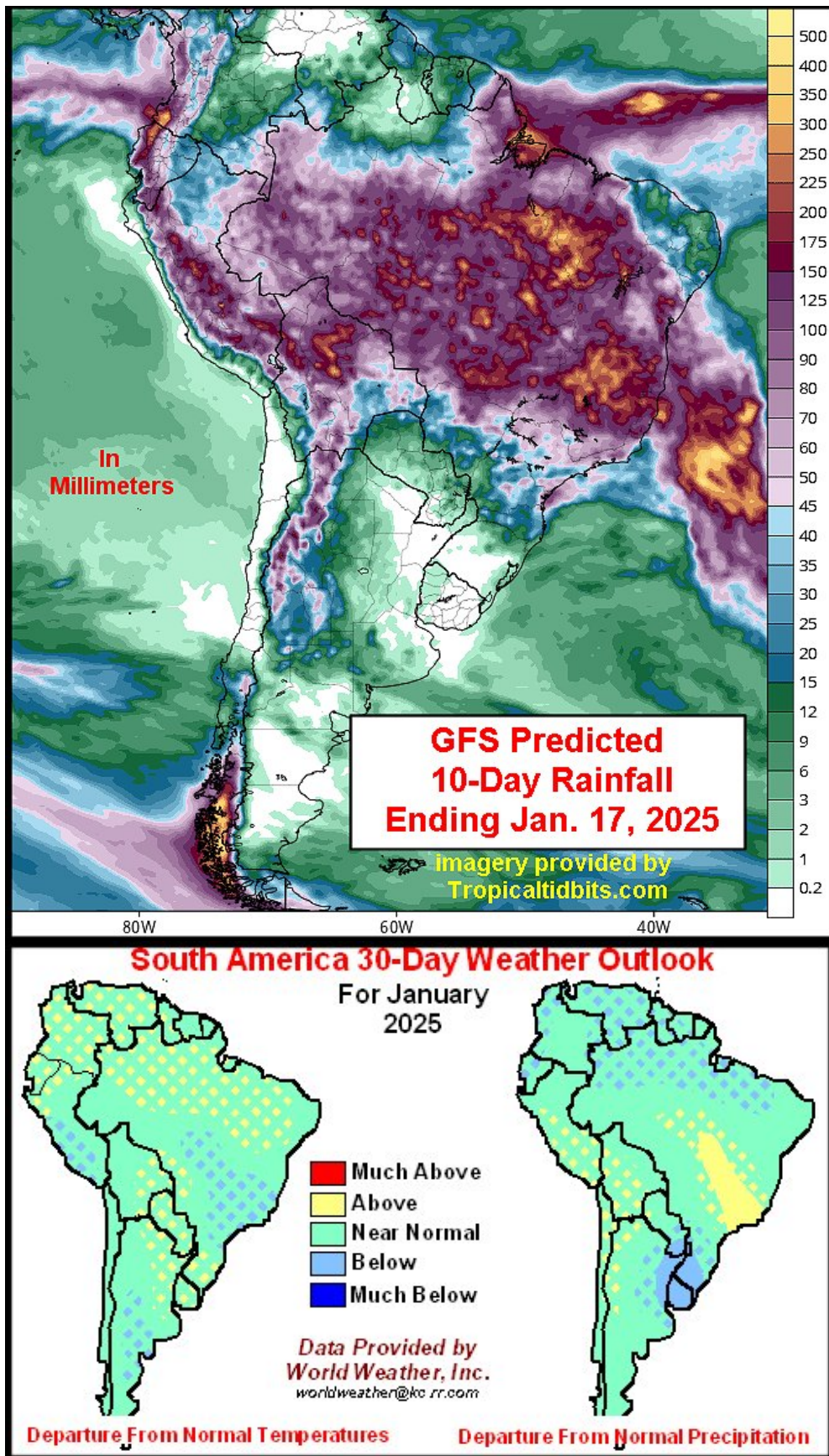


WEATHER OUTLOOK

Argentina will trend drier or much drier than usual this week. Light rain will still be scattered across Santiago del Estero, Cordoba, La Pampa, and western Buenos Aires. A few pockets will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain by next Monday morning. However, **most locations will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation.** The remaining production areas will be mostly dry. Argentina will then have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall January 14 – 20. However, resulting rainfall during this time will be too light to significantly bolster soil moisture.

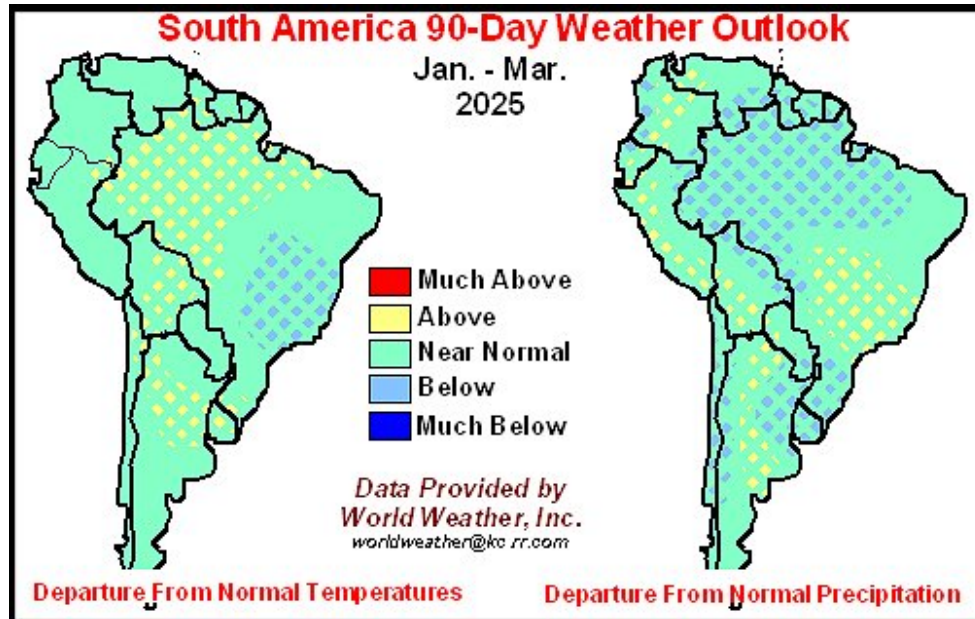
Temperatures will also trend warmer than normal most often across Argentina this week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s with pockets in northern Argentina occasionally warming above 100 degrees. Pockets in western Argentina will also only warm to the 70s during periods of rain. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in southern Argentina cooling to the 50s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for most locations January 14 – 20.

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January's weather in Argentina will be the driest and warmest of the January through March period. There will continue to be lighter than usual precipitation in eastern portions of the nation and farther to the east into far southern Brazil and far southern Paraguay during February, but the impact will be less significant as some timely precipitation falls along with less persistent heat.



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