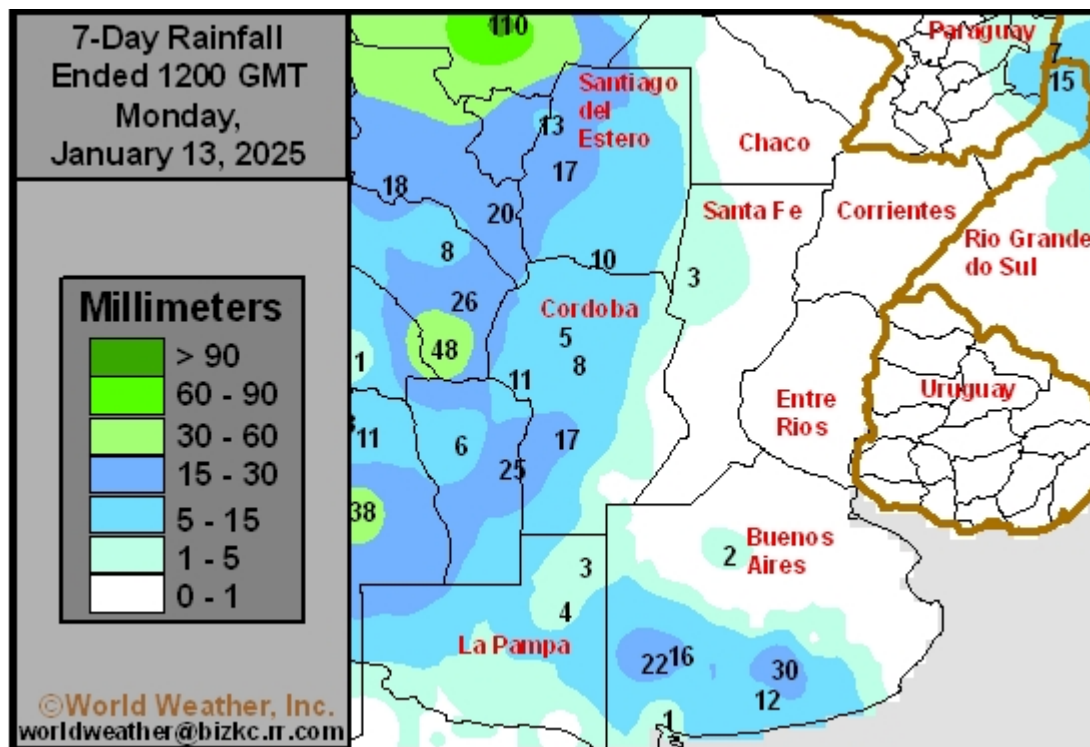


Argentina Rain Will Be Too Light To Improve Soil Moisture

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 13 (World Weather Inc.) – *Drier and warmer weather continued for much of Argentina during the past week. A few locations in western and southern Argentina saw periods of erratic rain, though resulting amounts were too light to impact long-term soil conditions. Temperatures slowly turned warmer leading to faster drying rates and the depletion of topsoil moisture from many areas. The need for rain is high, especially for recently-planted crops that are establishing or in the early stages of development. Topsoil moisture is short or very short and may be impacting development rates.* A disturbance will bring variable rainfall to the country late this week and weekend. Resulting rainfall will only offer temporary relief from dryness and not all areas will be treated equally. Much more rain will be needed to return ideal crop conditions.

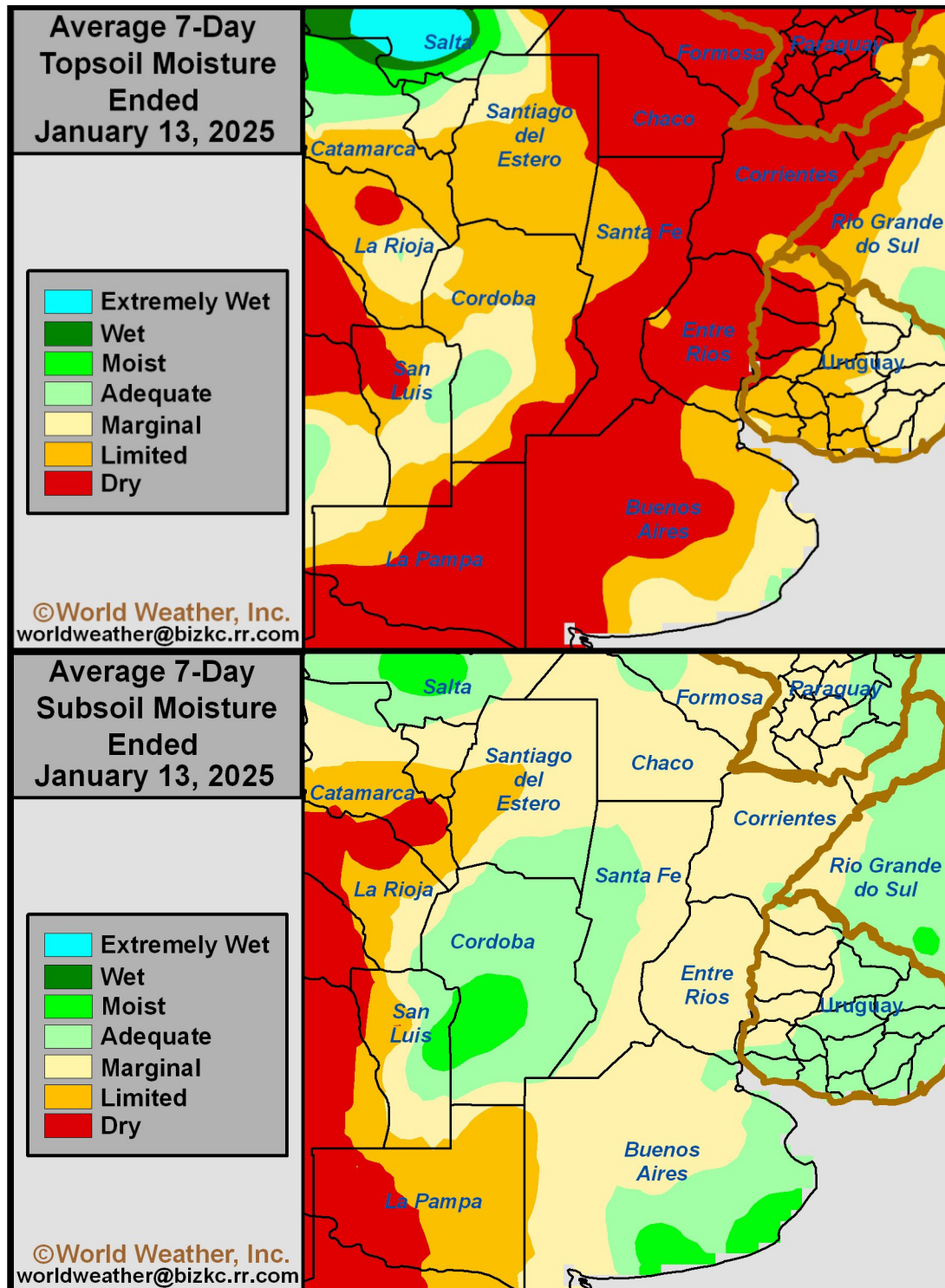
Santiago del Estero, San Luis, and portions of Cordoba, La Pampa, and southern Buenos Aires saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning generally ranged from 0.12 to 0.67 inch with local amounts up to 1.18 inches which was not enough to counter evaporation given the very warm temperatures. The remaining production areas in Argentina were dry or mostly dry. Temperatures were near to above normal with highest readings in the 90s Fahrenheit. Pockets in Santiago del Estero also warmed above 100 degrees at times. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s.



Topsoil moisture continued to decrease across Argentina. Most locations have short to very short topsoil moisture due to the lack of rain and warmer biased conditions. Subsoil

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moisture is at adequate to marginally adequate levels, though pockets in La Pampa and Santiago del Estero also have a shortage of moisture.

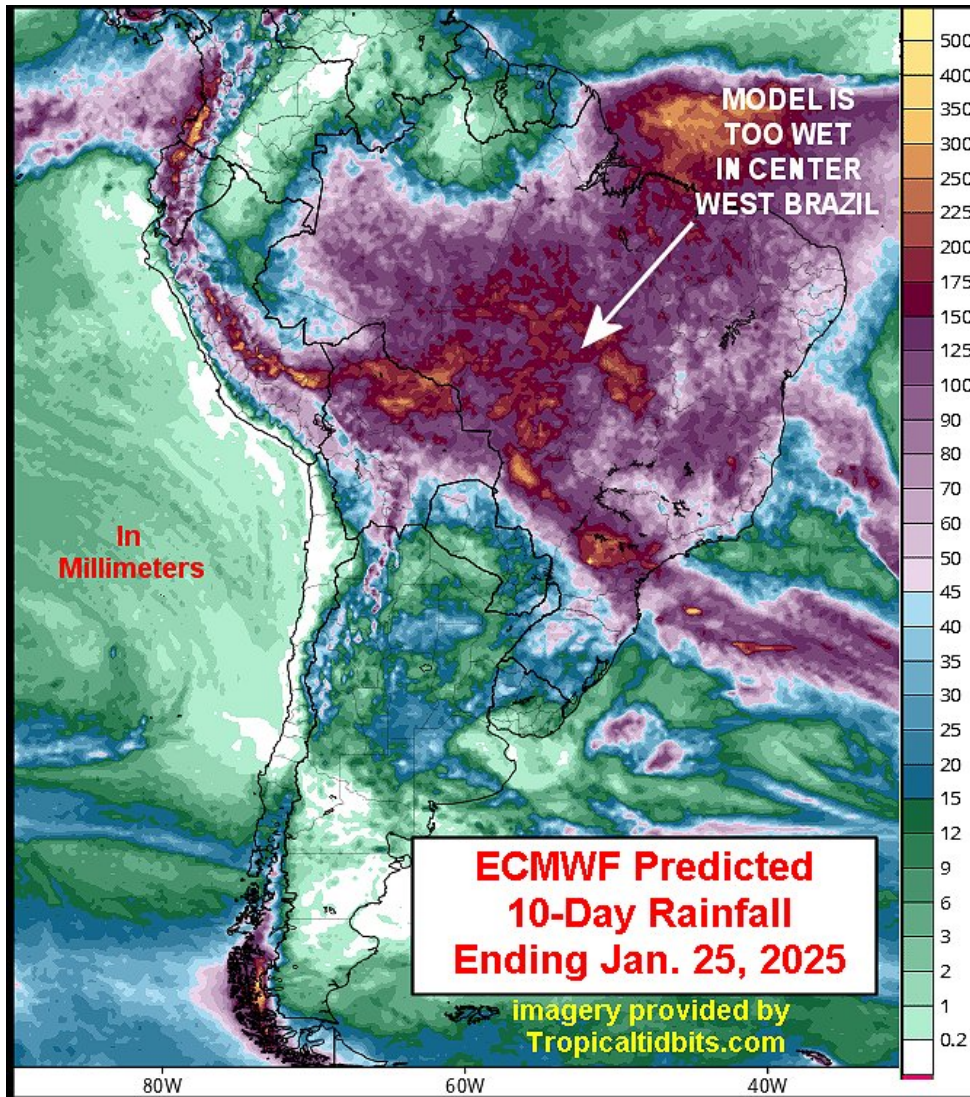


Planting of the main coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton in Argentina was either nearing completion or over 90% complete as of January 9. However, sorghum planting was

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only 81% complete, up slightly from 78% this time last year. In the meantime, harvesting of winter wheat and barley was virtually complete.

Dryness is an ongoing concern for much of Argentina's main production areas. Soil moisture is declining rapidly and crop stress is evolving just as quickly. The topsoil is too dry to support ideal establishment and early-season growth for the recently-planted crops. The earlier planted crops with longer root systems may be able to draw some moisture from the subsoil, though soil moisture is decreasing at subsoil levels as well. The need for significant rain remains high across crop country to support more aggressive development. Continued dryness will raise concerns for production losses.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Argentina will initially trend dry or mostly dry through mid-week. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will then evolve late this week and during the weekend as a disturbance slowly tracks across the region. Rainfall by next Monday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.00 inch with several pockets to receive up to and possibly more than 2.00

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inches due to thunderstorm activity. However, coverage of the greatest rain will not be widespread and confidence in which area in the nation gets the best rainfall is low leaving the situation tenuous at best. The situation must be closely monitored.

Argentina will have additional opportunities for rain January 21 – 27 and the precipitation then is expected to be erratic leaving some areas more relieved from heat and dryness than others. Any rain that falls in this time period is not likely to fully restore soil moisture to normal and there will be an ongoing need for more moisture.

Temperatures will trend near to above normal across Argentina this week. Daytime highs through Saturday will generally reach the upper 80s and 90s with portions of Santiago del Estero, Chaco, northern Cordoba, and neighboring locations warming above 100 degrees Wednesday into Saturday. Highs will drop to the 70s and 80s later this weekend and early next week, though pockets will still warm to the 90s. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in central and southern Argentina occasionally cooling to the 50s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist for much of Argentina January 21 – 27.

Erratic rainfall later this week and weekend will only offer temporary relief from the dryness in much of Argentina. Crops will react favorably to the rain, though long-term prospects will remain less than favorable due to the low moisture in the topsoil. Development conditions will remain less than favorable to poor for much of crop country. The need for abundant rain will remain high heading into early February to avoid the potential for significant production declines.

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