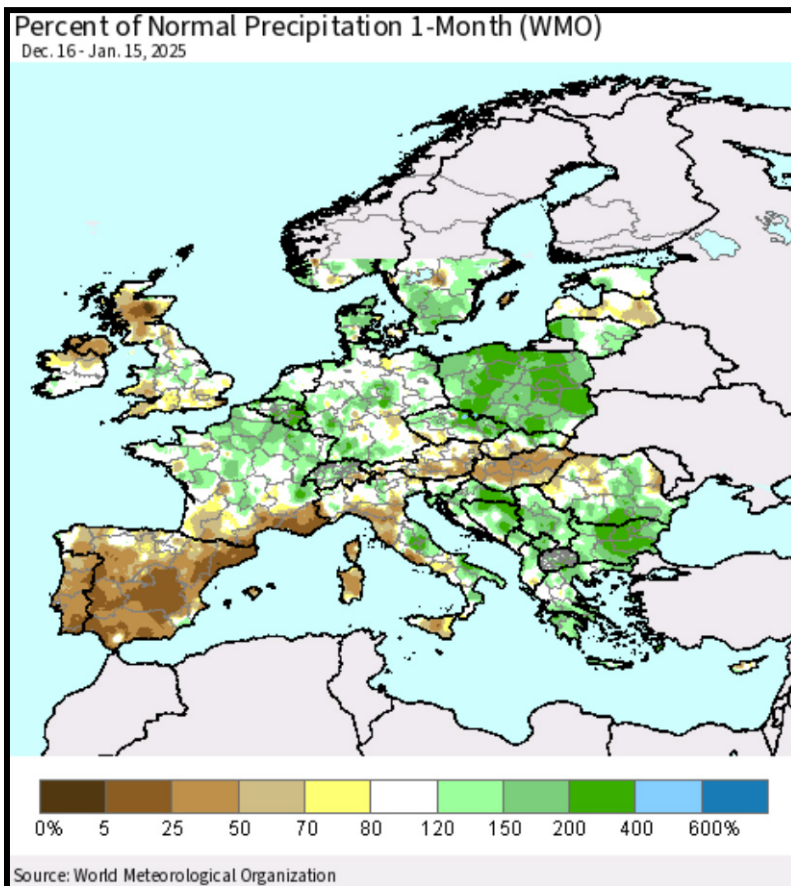


Europe Drying Improving Field Conditions In France, U.K.

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 17 (World Weather Inc.) – Portions of Europe received above to well above normal precipitation during the past month. The waves of precipitation lifted soil moisture to adequate or excessive levels from portions of the U.K., France and Germany into parts of Eastern Europe. *The moisture will support a good outlook for both early spring winter-crop development and possibly spring planting prospects; however, some of the wet soil increased flood potentials and may cause fieldwork delays if there is not sufficient drying.* Some of that needed drying is expected over the coming week with Eastern Europe continuing to dry out during the latter days of January.



Above to well above normal precipitation was reported during the 30-day period ending January 15 from portions of France, the Netherlands, and Belgium into portions of Germany and Poland. Moisture totals in Poland were well above normal with two to three times the norm. Rain was also above to well above normal in the Balkan Countries south of Hungary.

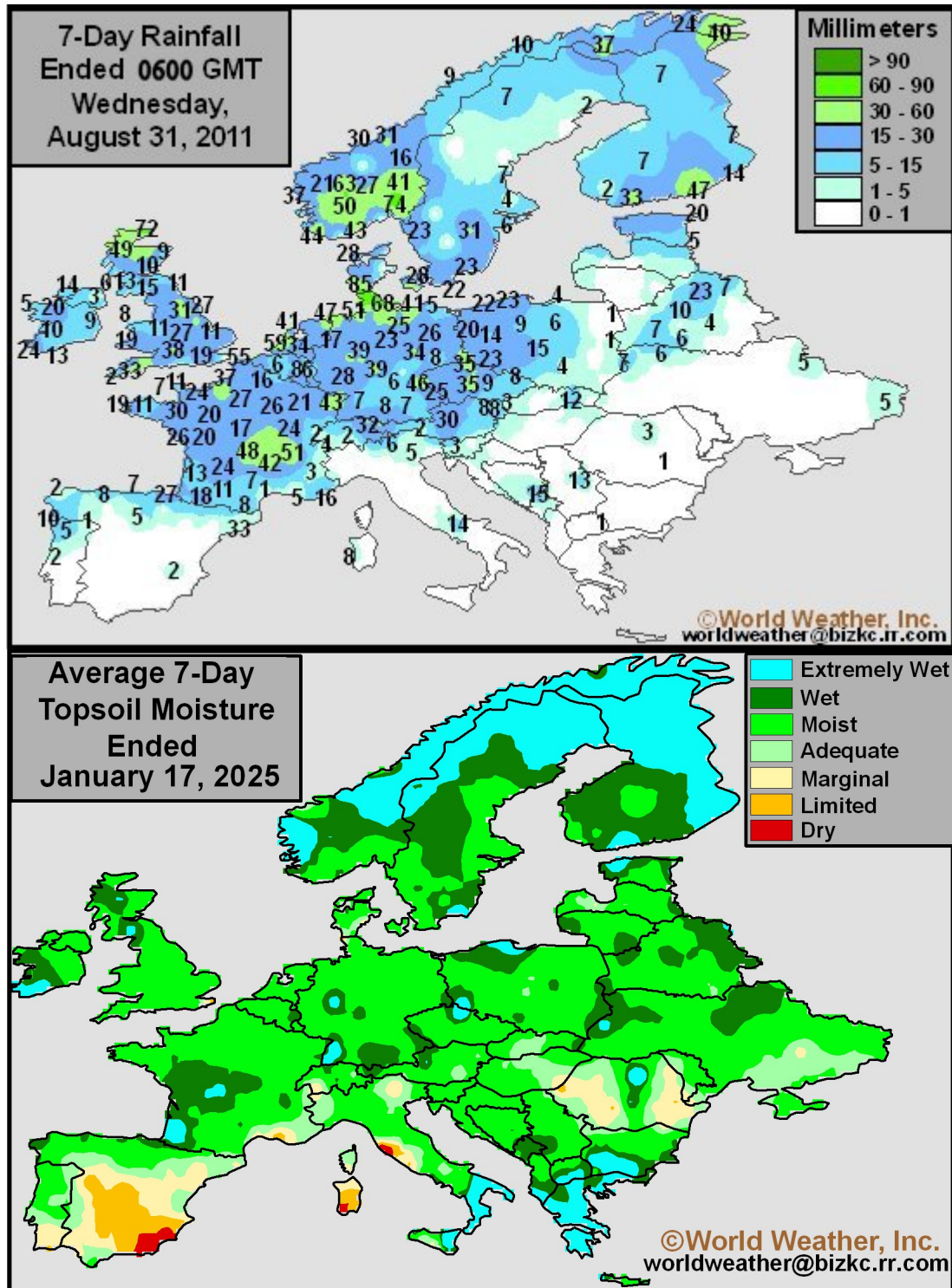
Other areas in Europe generally received near to below normal precipitation during 30 days ending Jan. 15 with Spain, Portugal, southeastern France and Hungary receiving less than half of the usual moisture and some areas less than 25%.

In the most recent week, precipitation was limited for a large section of Europe. Greece and southern Italy still received 0.55 to 3.62 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Poland, Belarus, northern Ukraine, Bulgaria, and portions of southwestern, west-central, and central France, northern Spain, western Ireland, and Scotland received 0.20 to 1.18 inches of moisture. Little to no precipitation was noted in the remaining locations of Europe.

Several areas in France, Germany, and neighboring locations into northeastern and southeastern Europe are excessively wet due to the above normal precipitation and seasonably cool temperatures in recent weeks. While these areas have ample moisture to support ideal long-term conditions for the winter crops and early-season planting prospects this spring, drier weather is needed to firm up the ground. Continued

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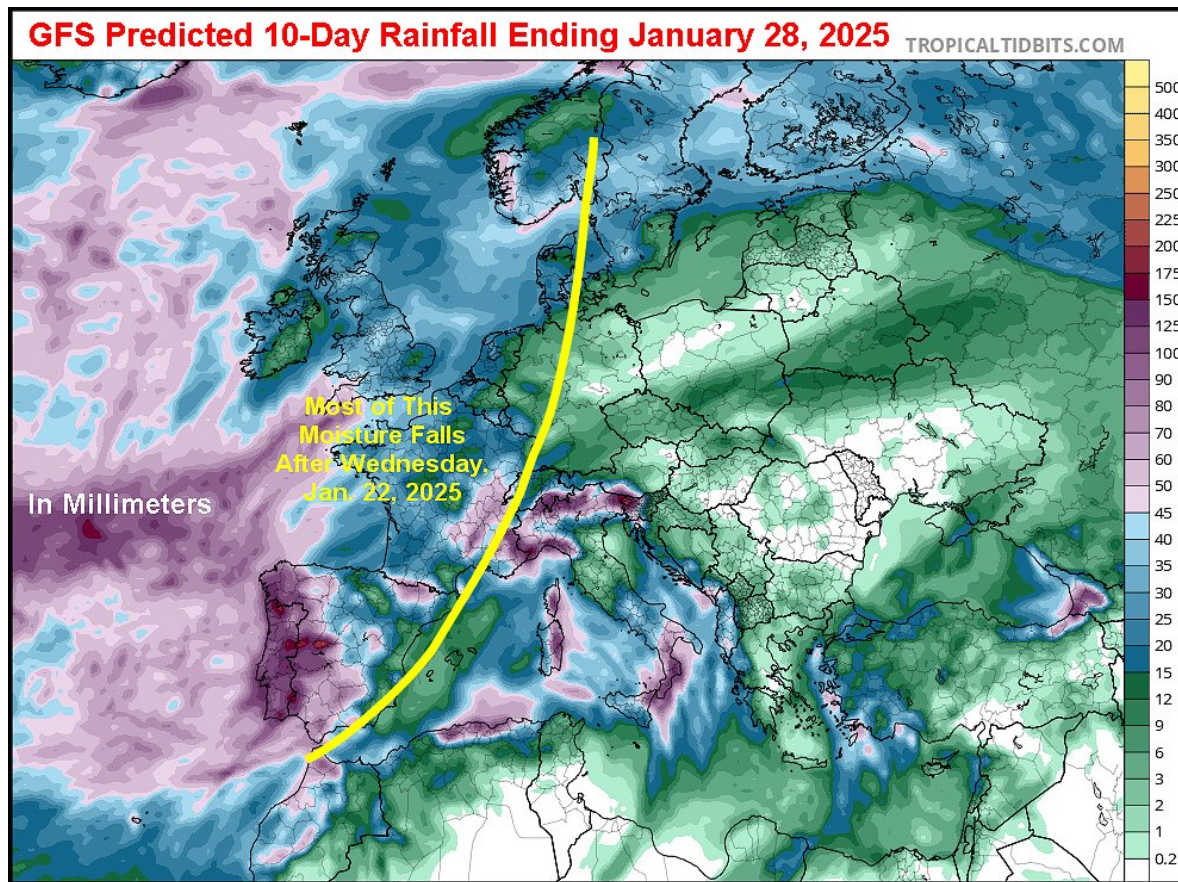
precipitation may promote flooding. Planting and general fieldwork conditions may also be impacted in the wettest locations. Most other locations in Europe have adequate moisture for winter grains and oilseeds along with early-season spring planting prospects, although eastern Spain is in need of rain.



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WEATHER OUTLOOK

Eastern Europe will trend much drier than usual through the end of next week. Portions of northern Poland, Belarus, and Baltic States will receive light precipitation, though resulting precipitation will be too light to impact long-term soil conditions. Areas near the Adriatic Sea will also see periods of rain with totals ranging from 0.25 to 1.00 inch and local amounts of 1.50 inches or more by next Friday morning. The region will then have a few opportunities for spotty precipitation January 25 – 31.



Western Europe will otherwise receive varying amounts of precipitation through the end of next week. A cut-off disturbance will promote erratic rain for Italy and neighboring areas through early next week. Disturbances will then promote varying amounts of rain later next week when tracking into the region. Portugal and western Spain will receive some of the most significant rain with totals ranging from 1.50 to 5.00 inches by next Friday morning. Other locations in Western Europe will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts of 1.50 inches or more in central Spain, northwestern France, Ireland, and neighboring locations. Western Europe will continue to see a mix of erratic precipitation and sunshine January 25 – 31.

Temperatures will trend near to slightly above normal across Europe through the end of next week. Daytime highs will peak to the 30s and 40s Fahrenheit with several locations

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in southern Europe warming to the 50s next week. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist January 25 – 31.

The lack of precipitation and warmer-than-normal weather will help enhance drying rates across most of Europe during the coming week with Eastern Europe seeing the trend into the last days of January. Western Europe will trend wetter during the latter part of next week into the following weekend which may saturate the soil once again. The moisture in Spain, though, will be welcome especially since early season crop development can begin in that nation during February. The environment will remain favorable for winter crop prospects and early-season planting despite the net drying. Conditions for both the winter crops and planting this spring will remain relatively good in most of Europe.

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