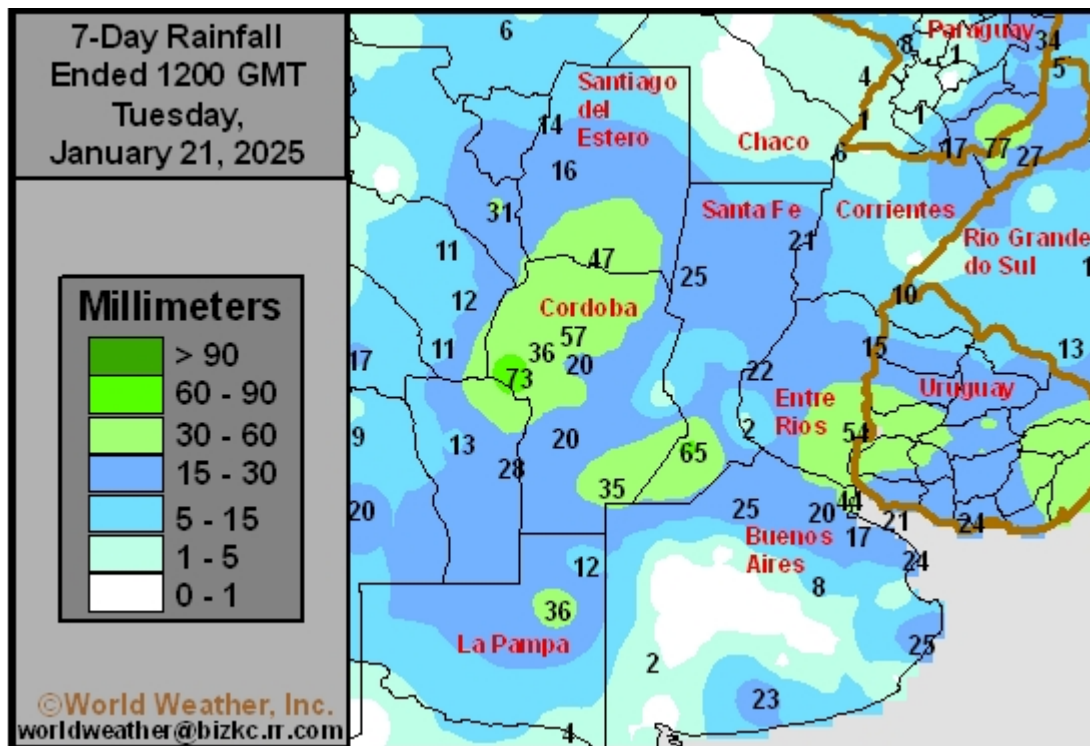


Argentina Rainfall Proves To Be A Little Too Erratic

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 21 (World Weather Inc.) – Several locations in Argentina received much-needed rain in recent days that helped improve the moisture profile in some areas far more than others. Resulting rainfall was too light to completely fix the moisture deficits that evolved earlier this month due to drier and warmer than normal weather. The main production areas will have opportunities for rain during the coming week that will continue to chip away at the dryness; however, warm temperatures will keep evaporation rates high enough to maintain a constant need for more rain. Short-term development conditions may improve marginally in areas that receive the greatest amount of rain. The environment will remain less than ideal despite the additional precipitation. The need for more rain will remain high heading into early February with some of the early crop already reproducing.

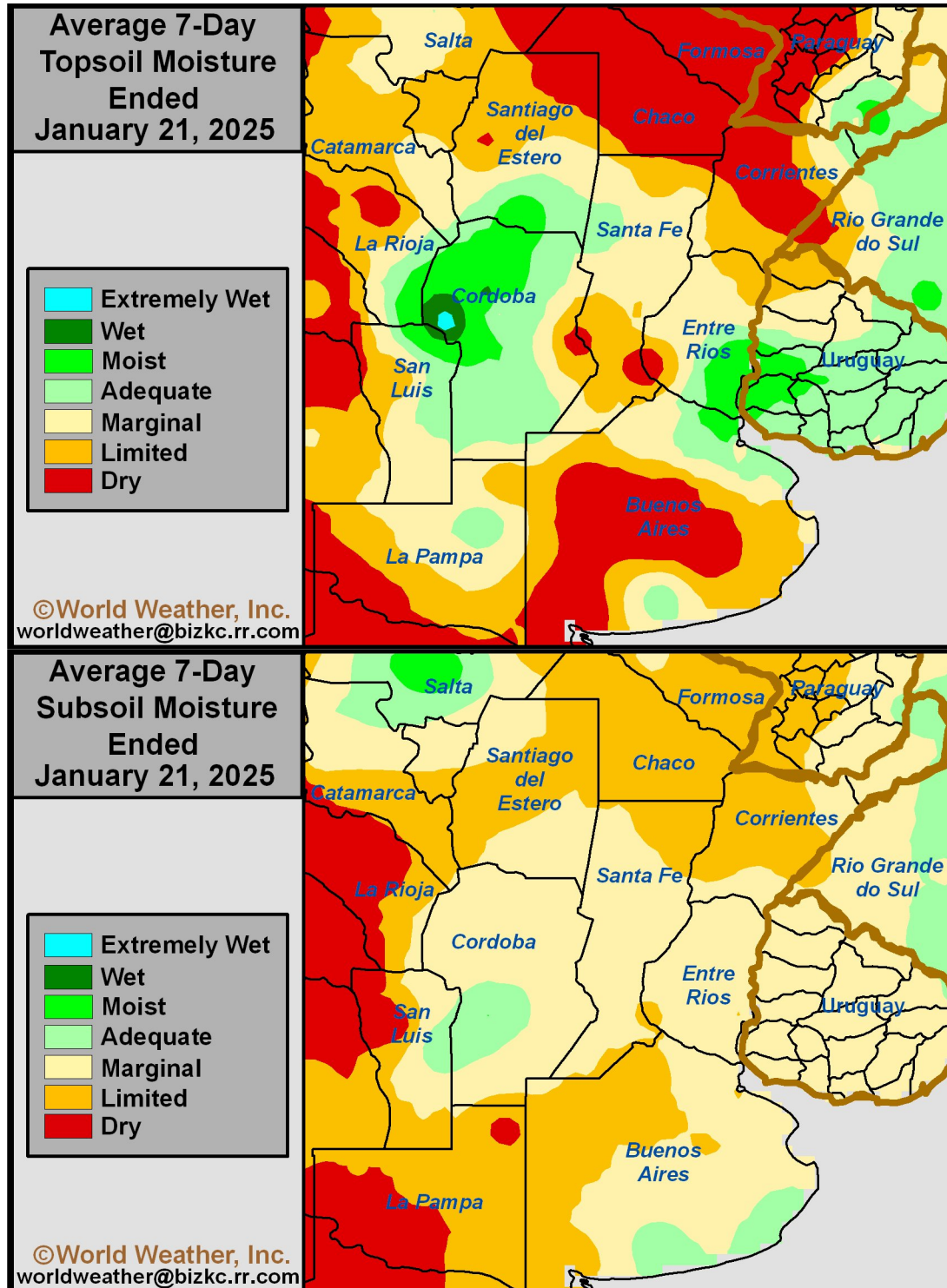
Rainfall varied across the main production areas in Argentina during the past week. Cordoba, Santiago del Estero, Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and northern sections of La Pampa and Buenos Aires received 0.50 to 2.87 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. A few locations in Corrientes and eastern and southern Buenos Aires received 0.32 to 1.00 inch of rain. Other areas in northern Argentina and Buenos Aires received little to no rain.



Temperatures during the past week were often warmer than normal before the recent rainfall. Highest readings ranged from 90 to 105 degrees Fahrenheit across crop country. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in Buenos Aires cooling to the 40s.

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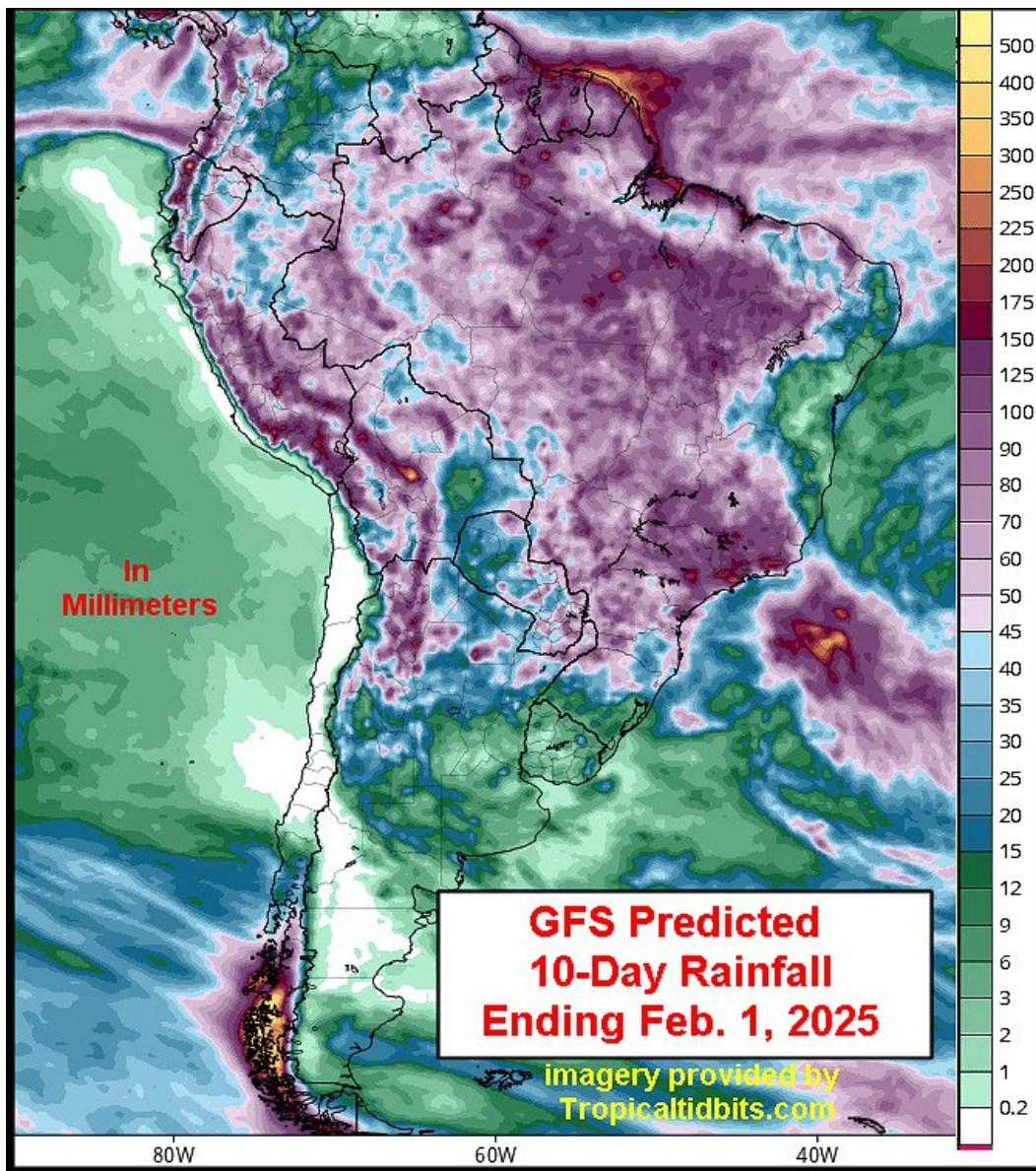
Topsoil moisture increased to adequate or marginally adequate levels in portions of Cordoba, southern Santiago del Estero and from northeastern Buenos Aires into southeastern Entre Rios while still rated short to very short in most other areas. Subsoil moisture was still rated short to very short in much of the nation suggesting crop stress is great enough to be threatening lower yield potentials.



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Planting of late season crops in Argentina was coming to an end late last week. As of January 16, 85% of the sorghum was in the ground. Planting of the other grains, oilseeds, and cotton was either nearly complete or over 90% finished. Winter wheat and barley harvesting was also complete.

Rain in recent days helped to temporarily improve topsoil moisture in a large section of crop country. However, much more rain is needed to completely fix the moisture deficits as a La Nina-like weather pattern earlier this month severely depleted the moisture. Development conditions will briefly improve for a few days, although it will not take long for soil moisture to be depleted once again. Concern remains for some production losses unless a wet weather pattern evolves soon.



Argentina will see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine during the coming week. Precipitation will initially be limited for much of crop country today. A disturbance will

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bring erratic rainfall to northern Argentina Wednesday with more widespread precipitation Thursday into Saturday. Light rain will persist in a few locations Sunday before a front potentially promotes rain early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.20 to 0.75 inch except in northern Argentina from Santiago del Estero and Salta to Chaco, Formosa and northern Santa Fe as well as Corrientes where 1.00 to 2.00 inches is expected with local amounts well over 3.00 inches.

The temperature profile will be near to above normal across Argentina through next Tuesday. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s with pockets in southern and east-central Argentina only warming to the 70s. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in southern Argentina occasionally cooling to the 50s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist January 29 – February 4.

Rain in central and southern Argentina will be welcome, though a little too erratic and light to have a serious impact on long term soil moisture or crop development. Much more rain will be needed. In the meantime, rain will fall more abundantly and frequently in northern Argentina benefiting cotton and minor grain and oilseed production areas.

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