

Argentina Still Struggling With Dryness Despite Erratic Rain

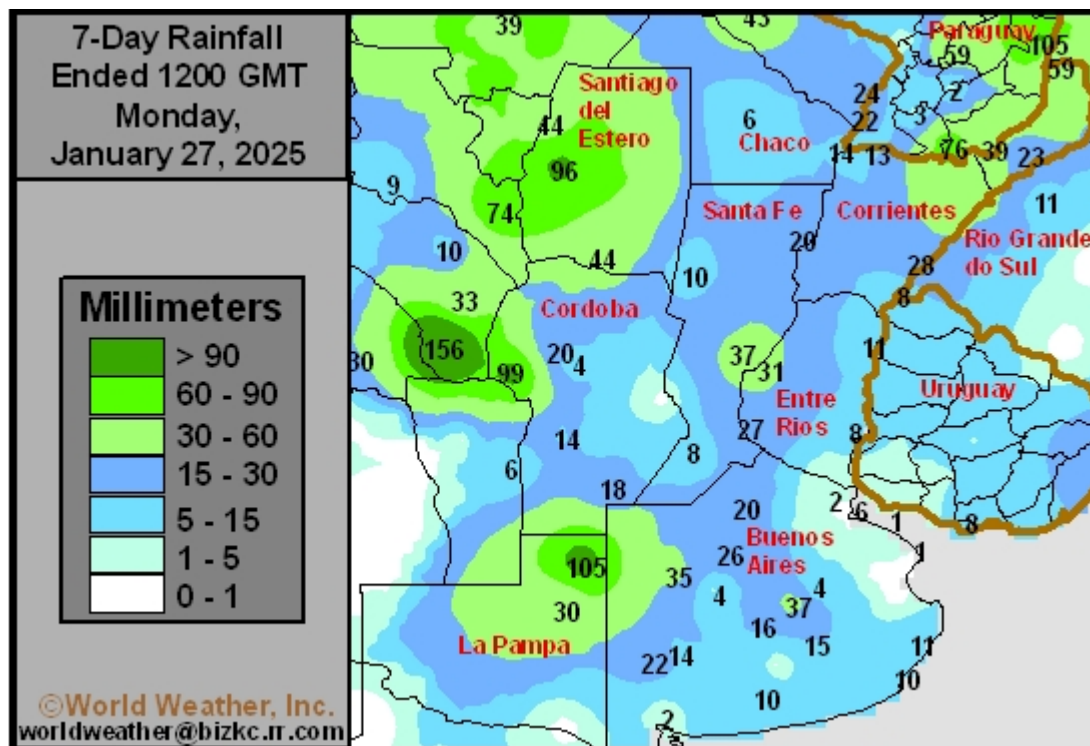
By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 27 (World Weather Inc.) – The main production areas in Argentina received varying amounts of rain during the past week. While the rain was welcome where it fell, several locations did not receive enough to significantly improve the moisture profile. *Much of Argentina is struggling with dryness and in need of more significant rain. Concern is already high for a reduction in yields due to the lack of rain. The northern half of crop country and much of Cordoba will see a good mix of rain and sunshine this week that will offer some relief to the dryness. The remaining production areas will trend drier than usual.* Moisture deficits will persist in much of the Pampas farming region and the need for rain will remain high heading into mid-February.

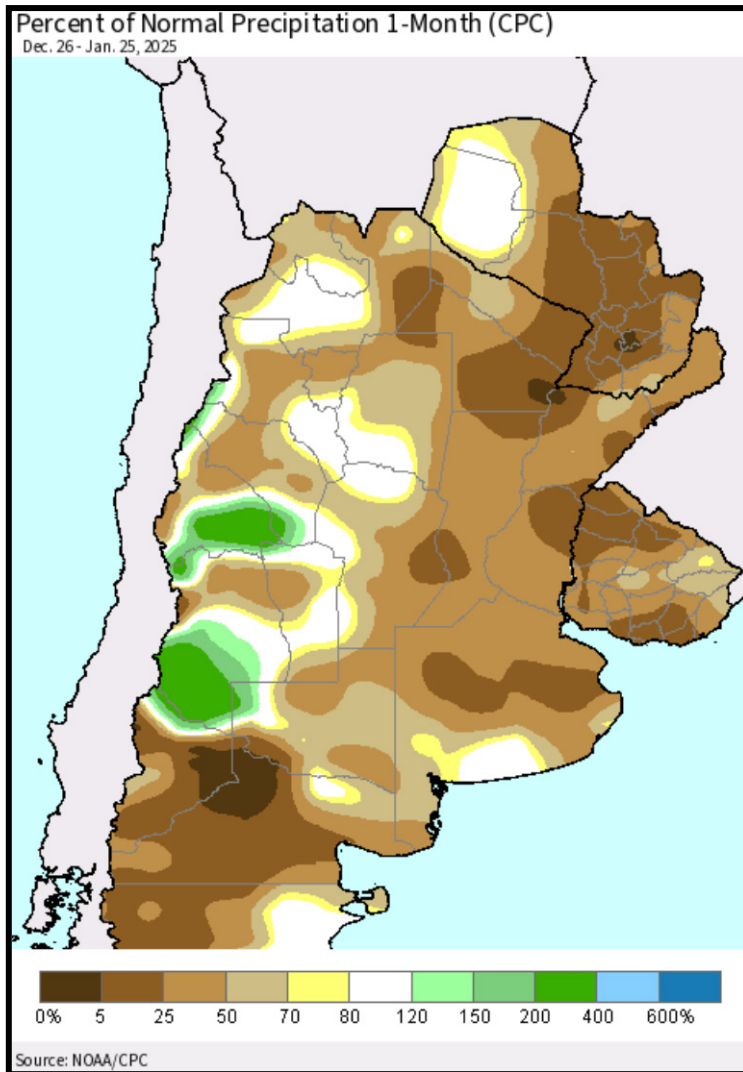
Rainfall varied across the main production areas of Argentina during the past week. Santiago del Estero, northeastern La Pampa, northwestern and far west-central Buenos Aires and a few areas in northern and western Cordoba reported 1.00 to 4.60 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. One location near General Pico, La Pampa reported 8.54 inches of rain. Local flooding might have occurred in a few of these heavier rainfall areas, but most of the precipitation was welcome and beneficial.

Other areas in Argentina received 0.32 to 1.46 inches of rain with pockets that only received up to 0.16 inch of moisture in Buenos Aires and Chaco.

Temperatures were near to above normal with highest readings ranging from 90 to 105 degrees Fahrenheit. *Most daily highs were in the 90s which was warm enough to allow net drying to occur for most areas that failed to get multiple inches of rain.* Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s.



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Despite recent rainfall, a large section of Argentina was drier or much drier than normal during the past month. Rainfall as a percent of normal ranged from 25-80% with pockets that only received 5-25% of normal precipitation for the 30-day period ending January 25.

Santiago del Estero, La Pampa, and northwestern Cordoba received enough rain during the past week to bolster topsoil moisture to adequate or excessive levels. However, moisture shortages persist in much of Argentina due to the lack of significant rain and periods of warmer than normal weather in recent weeks.

Planting was either complete or coming to an end late last week. As of January 23, corn planting was 94% complete while sorghum planting was 88% finished. Producers finished planting most other crops.

Dryness is becoming a significant concern in the main coarse grain, oilseed, cotton, and other crop areas in Argentina. Some of the most significant rain during the past week occurred outside the main production region, though most of the rain that occurred was still welcome. The ground has otherwise dried down too much to support ideal long-term crop development conditions. Continued dryness in the next two weeks would further increase the potential for production cuts.

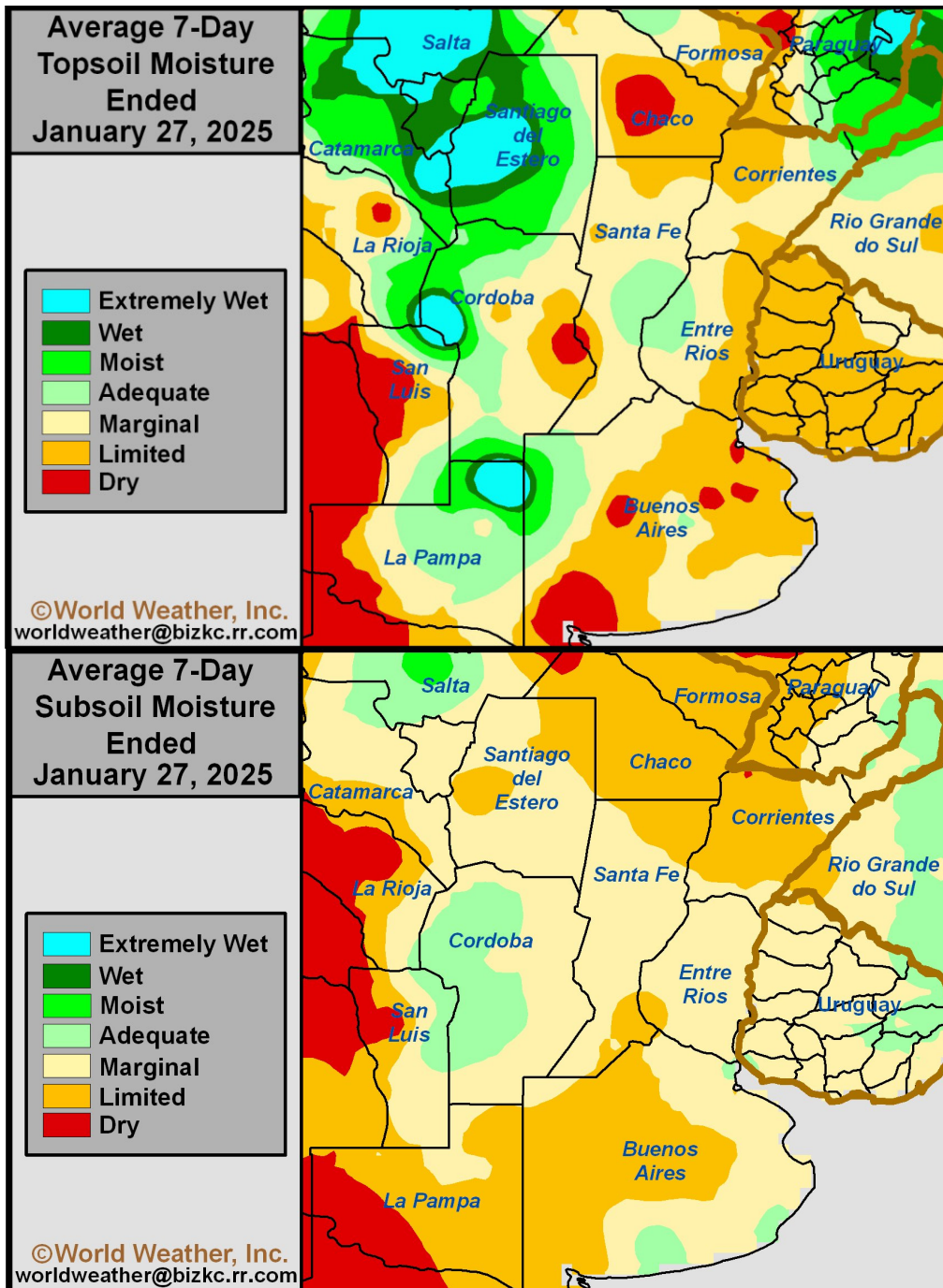
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will again vary across Argentina this week. Light rain will initially be scattered across portions of crop country today. A disturbance will promote scattered showers and thunderstorms for portions of northern and central Argentina Tuesday and Wednesday with a few lingering showers Thursday. Precipitation will then be restricted for much of the region Friday and this weekend. Chaco, Formosa, and Corrientes into Santiago del Estero, northern Santa Fe, and much of Cordoba will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain by next Monday morning. Other locations will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with locally

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greater amounts. Argentina will then see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine February 4 – 10, though most locations will not receive enough rain to significantly bolster soil moisture.

Temperatures will again trend near to above normal in Argentina this week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s most often with pockets only warming to the 70s through mid-week due to the rain and cloudiness. Pockets in northern and central Argentina could also warm above 100 degrees Sunday and next Monday. 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 February 4 – 10.



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Northern Argentina and Cordoba will receive enough rain in the coming days to improve or maintain relatively good short-term development conditions. Some of the rain will be too light to completely fix the moisture deficits and additional precipitation will still be needed, though a few areas will experience improving rainfall. The remaining locations in Argentina will dry down significantly during the next seven days, but rain could develop erratically for a while in the following week. The environment will remain less than favorable for new growth through the coming weekend except in areas that either received significant rain recently or still have favorable subsoil moisture.

For the month of February, Argentina is expecting to see a continuation of below normal precipitation in east-central and southeastern areas while near to slightly greater than usual rain evolves in western and northern parts of the nation.

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