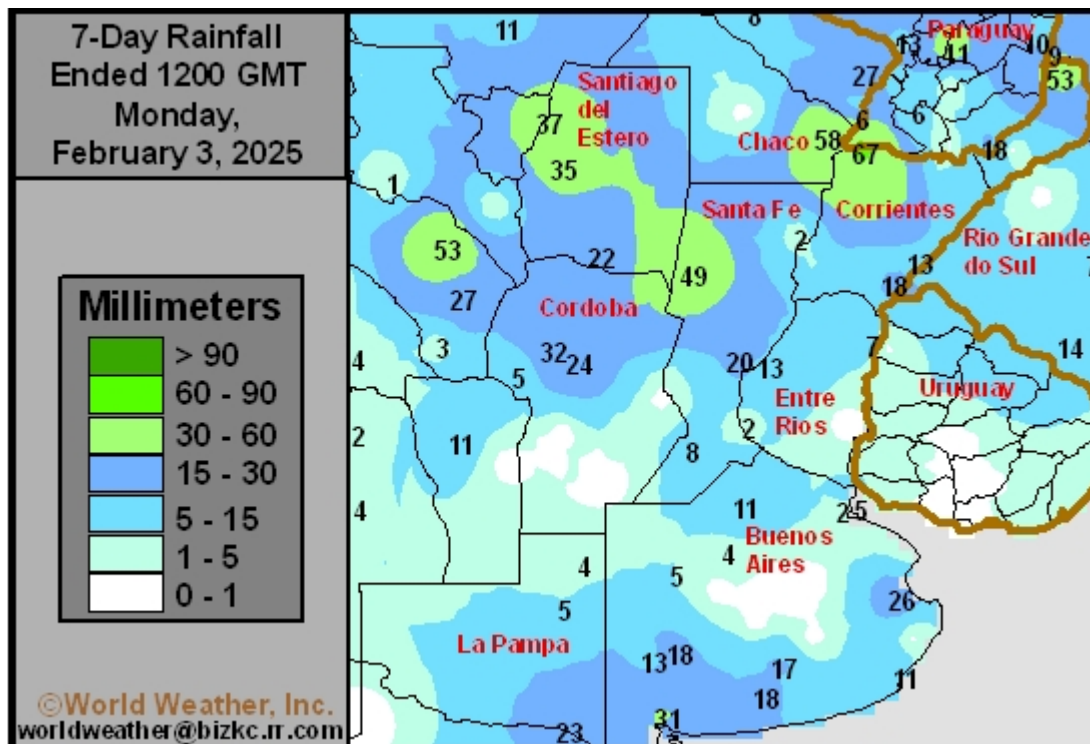


Southern Argentina Mid-Week Rain Very Important

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 4 (World Weather Inc.) – *Southern Argentina will begin experiencing scattered showers and thunderstorms later today and the precipitation will expand across much of Buenos Aires, southern Cordoba, southern Santa Fe and southern Entre Rios Wednesday before ending. The rain will prove to be extremely important since some areas in Buenos Aires are among the driest in the nation and production cuts will worsen without significant rain.* A ridge of high pressure building in northern Argentina this week will bring hot weather to the central and north increasing evaporation rates and eventually raising livestock and crop stress. That region will be next to experience significant crop moisture stress.

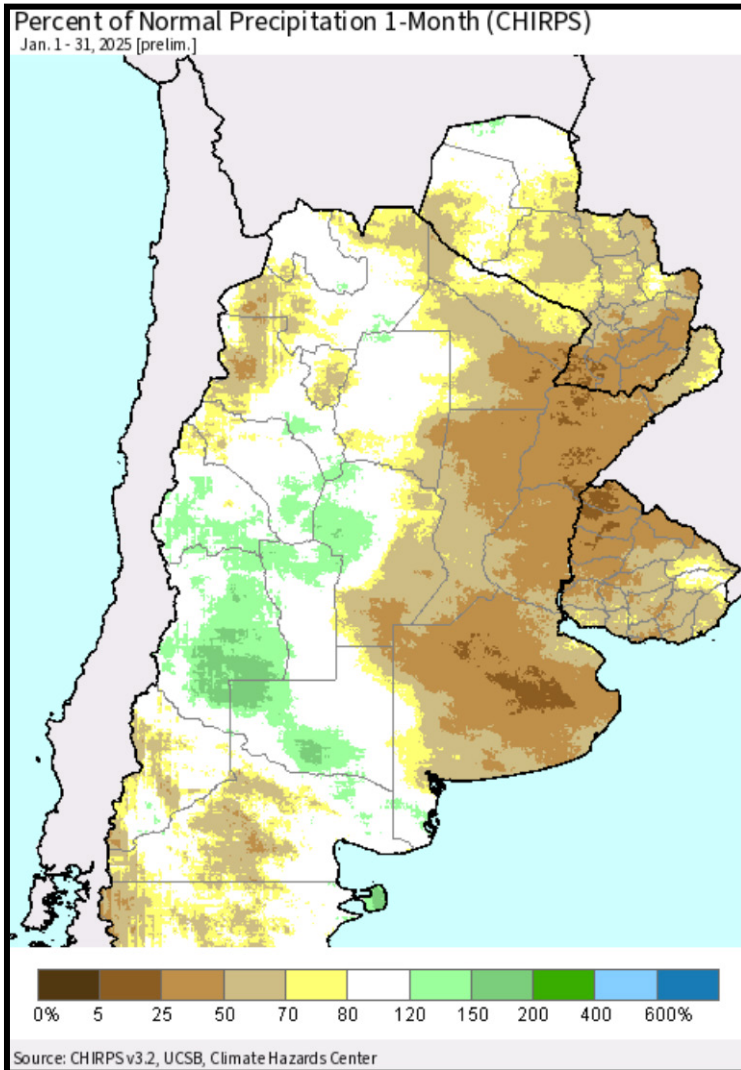
Rainfall during the 7-day period ending Monday ranged from 0.87 to 2.64 inches in Santiago del Estero, northern Cordoba, northern Santa Fe, and portions of southern Chaco and northwestern Corrientes. Most other production areas received 0.16 to 0.79 inch of rain which was not enough to counter evaporation resulting in aggressive drying especially with temperatures slightly warmer than usual. Highest afternoon temperatures were in the 90s to near 100 Fahrenheit. A few locations in northern Argentina occasionally warmed above 100 degrees as well. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s. Some areas from southern Cordoba into central Buenos Aires were completely dry.



A large section of Argentina was drier than normal in January. Only Santiago del Estero and portions of northern and western Cordoba, San Luis, and northern La Pampa received near to slightly above normal rainfall. Other locations received 25-70% of normal rainfall during this time with drier pockets in Buenos Aires.

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Topsoil moisture was rated adequate to marginally adequate in Santiago del Estero, northern Cordoba, and portions of Santa Fe, southern Chaco, and northern Corrientes. Other



production areas generally have short or critically short soil moisture in the topsoil. Subsoil moisture is adequate or marginally adequate, though moisture shortages are starting to pop up from Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, and Corrientes into Chaco and Formosa.

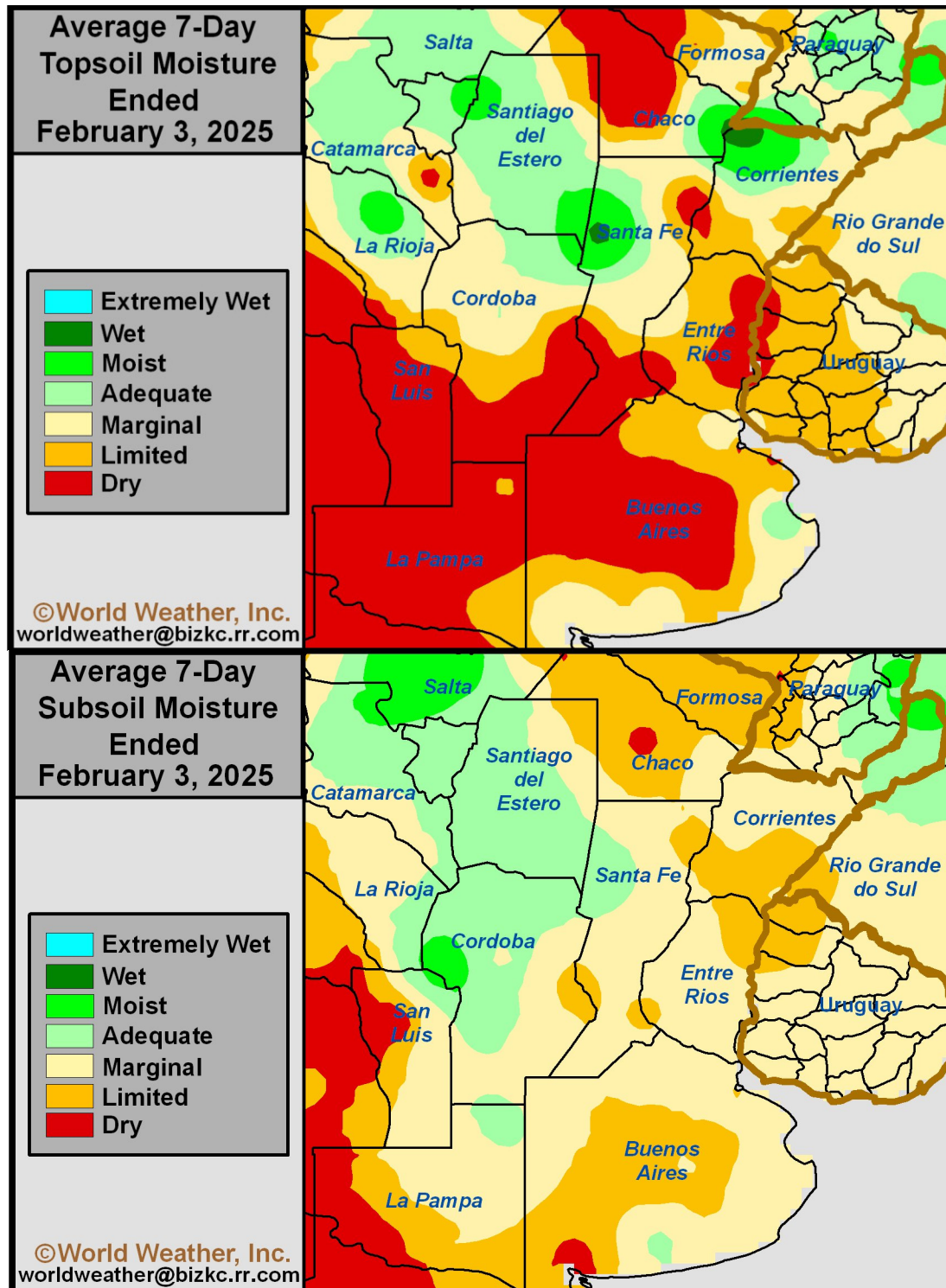
The lack of rain and periods of warmer than normal weather in January have already hurt production potentials in some of the driest locations in the Pampas farming region. There is still time for better rainfall to improve production potentials. Crops with deeper root systems have likely drawn moisture from the subsoil that has limited the negative impacts of heat and dryness. *Short-rooted crops in the driest areas, however, are in dire need of rain to avoid any serious production cuts.*

Buenos Aires, La Pampa, and southern sections of Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios will see a mix of erratic rain

and sunshine this week. The first round of rain will occur today into Wednesday as a disturbance passes over the region. Another disturbance will generate rain Friday and Saturday with some more rain possible Sunday. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts up to 3.00 inches. Central and northern Argentina will otherwise trend drier than normal this week. Periods of light and erratic rain will still occur with totals ranging from 0.10 to 0.75 inch and locally more. Much of Argentina will see a mix of rain and sunshine February 11 – 17, though a large section of crop country may trend drier than normal.

Temperatures will often trend above to well above normal for Argentina this week. Daytime highs will peak to a range from 90 to 105 degrees with pockets occasionally warming as high as 110 degrees in the northern half of crop country. The southern half of Argentina will warm to the 80s and 90s with pockets only warming to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in southern Argentina occasionally cooling to the 50s. The temperature profile will remain warmer than normal most days during the February 11-17 period.

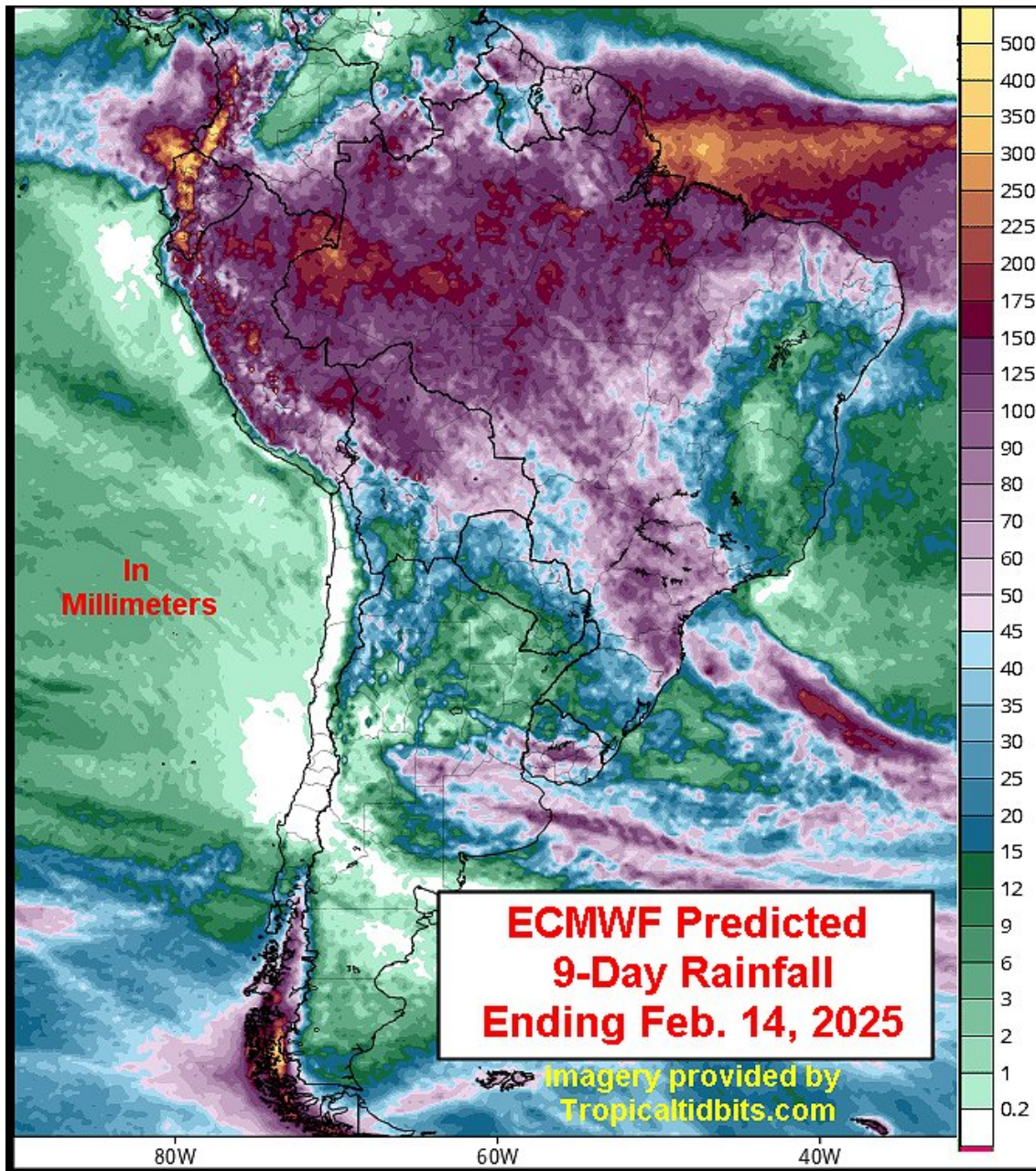
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Rainfall in southern Argentina this week will be enough to temporarily bolster soil moisture. Crop conditions may improve slightly due to the rain, though much more will be needed later in February to completely fix the moisture deficits. Northern and central Argentina will dry down significantly due to the lack of rain and warm to hot daytime

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temperatures resulting in crop stress and declining production potentials. The need for rain will be high heading into the second half of February to improve long-term production potentials.



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