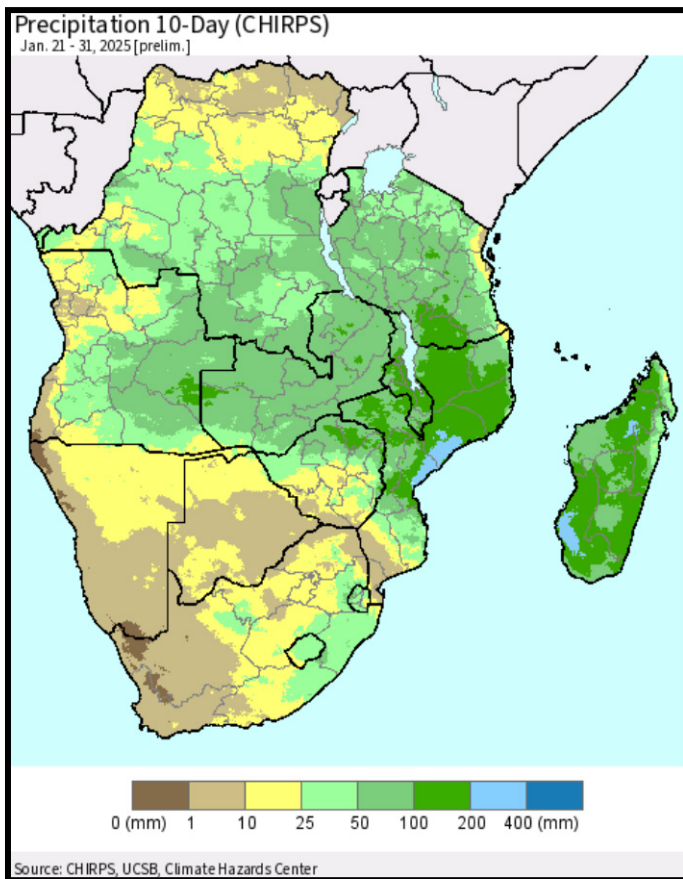


South Africa Rain Boost To Support Reproduction

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 6 (World Weather Inc.) – South Africa saw some spotty rainfall toward the end of January that was too light to significantly improve the moisture profile in portions of Free State, North West, and neighboring locations. *Scattered showers ramped up in more recent days for much of crop country and will continue on a frequent basis for at least the next seven to ten days. Eastern South Africa will continue to have ample moisture to support aggressive coarse grain, oilseed, and other crop development.* Localized flooding may be a concern in a few pockets, though crop impacts should be minimal. *The driest areas in western summer crop areas of South Africa will also receive enough rain to significantly bolster soil moisture and crops will react favorably as they move more deeply into reproduction and filling.*

Rainfall varied across the main production areas in South Africa during the last days



of January. Natal, eastern sections of Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape, and pockets in eastern Free State, western North West, northeastern Northern Cape, and eastern Limpopo received an estimated 1.00 to 2.00 inches of rain for the 10-day period ending January 31. Other locations in eastern and central South Africa received 0.40 to 1.00 inch of moisture. Western South Africa received little to no rain. Erratic rainfall was noted elsewhere across crop country since the start of February.

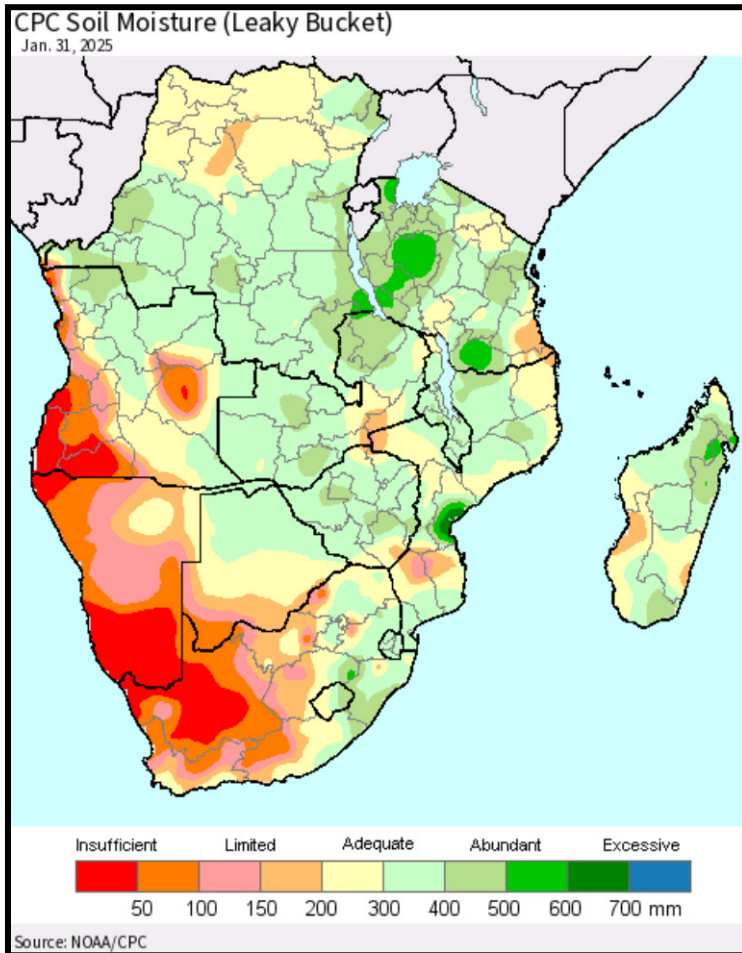
Temperatures were generally near or slightly above normal with daytime highs suspected of reaching the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit most often since the beginning of February.

At the end of January, several areas in Free State and North West, along with pockets in Limpopo and Mpumalanga, had limited soil moisture due to the lack of abundant rain and warm daytime

temperatures. Other production areas in eastern South Africa had adequate soil moisture. Some improvements may have occurred in recent days in eastern parts of crop country while the west was still struggling with dryness in unirrigated fields.

Eastern South Africa continues to experience relatively good conditions for aggressive coarse grain, oilseed, and other crop development. The region has received timely rain so far this growing season and production potentials are favorable. Many areas in Free State and North West have otherwise been too dry for ideal crop conditions

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and would benefit from more significant rain in the coming weeks.

Dryness has prevailed long enough in some of the unirrigated western crop areas to reduce yield potentials, although if significant rain falls in the next few weeks the losses could be trimmed since reproduction is under way now.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

A wet weather pattern is slated for the main production areas in eastern and central South Africa during the coming week. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will evolve on a near daily basis. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches with locally greater amounts in Natal, Mpumalanga, and eastern Free State. Pockets in western Free State and North West will

also only receive 0.50 to 1.00 inch of moisture. Waves of rain will persist on a frequent basis for eastern and central South Africa February 14-20.

Temperatures will trend near to slightly above normal for South Africa through next Thursday. Daytime highs in eastern South Africa will peak to the 70s and 80s with pockets warming to the 90s during drier periods. Western South Africa will warm to the 80s and 90s with pockets only warming to the 70s. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in Northern Cape and eastern South Africa only cooling to the 70s. Seasonable temperatures are slated for much of the country February 14-20.

Eastern South Africa will receive enough rain to maintain aggressive growth in the coming weeks. Localized flooding will be a concern, though crop damage should be minimal. Free State and North West will also receive enough rain to bolster soil moisture to more adequate levels in the coming days. Crop development conditions will either improve or remain favorable.

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