

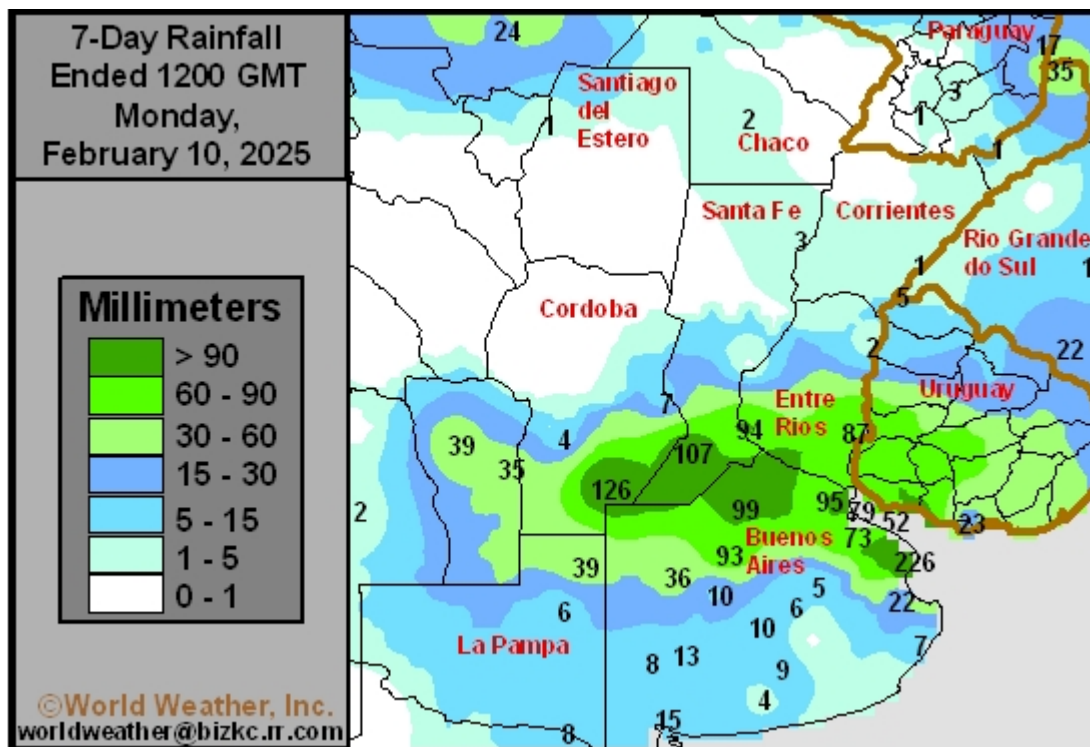
# Argentina To Receive More Rain; Minor Improvements Possible

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 10 (World Weather Inc.) – Much-needed rain was noted in northern sections of Buenos Aires and La Pampa into southern sections of Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios, Argentina during the past week. The rain helped bolster soil moisture and improved conditions for new coarse grain, oilseed, and other crop development. **Areas farther north in Argentina were mostly dry with substantial moisture deficits persisting. While the rain was welcome where it occurred, the rain was too late to support ideal prospects for the earlier-planted crops. Crops were damaged by dryness and heat in January and production potentials were reduced as a result.** The driest areas in central and northern Argentina will see a mix of rain and dry weather this week. Central Argentina will see the moisture profile increase gradually and some improvements to the crops are expected. Overall yields are still expected to be lower than earlier estimates despite the timely rain.

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Rainfall varied significantly across the main production areas in Argentina during the past week. Northern sections of Buenos Aires and La Pampa into southern sections of Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios received 1.50 to nearly 5.00 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. San Luis received up to 1.54 inches of moisture. Other locations in Buenos Aires received 0.16 to 0.59 inch of moisture. The remaining production areas received little to no rain.



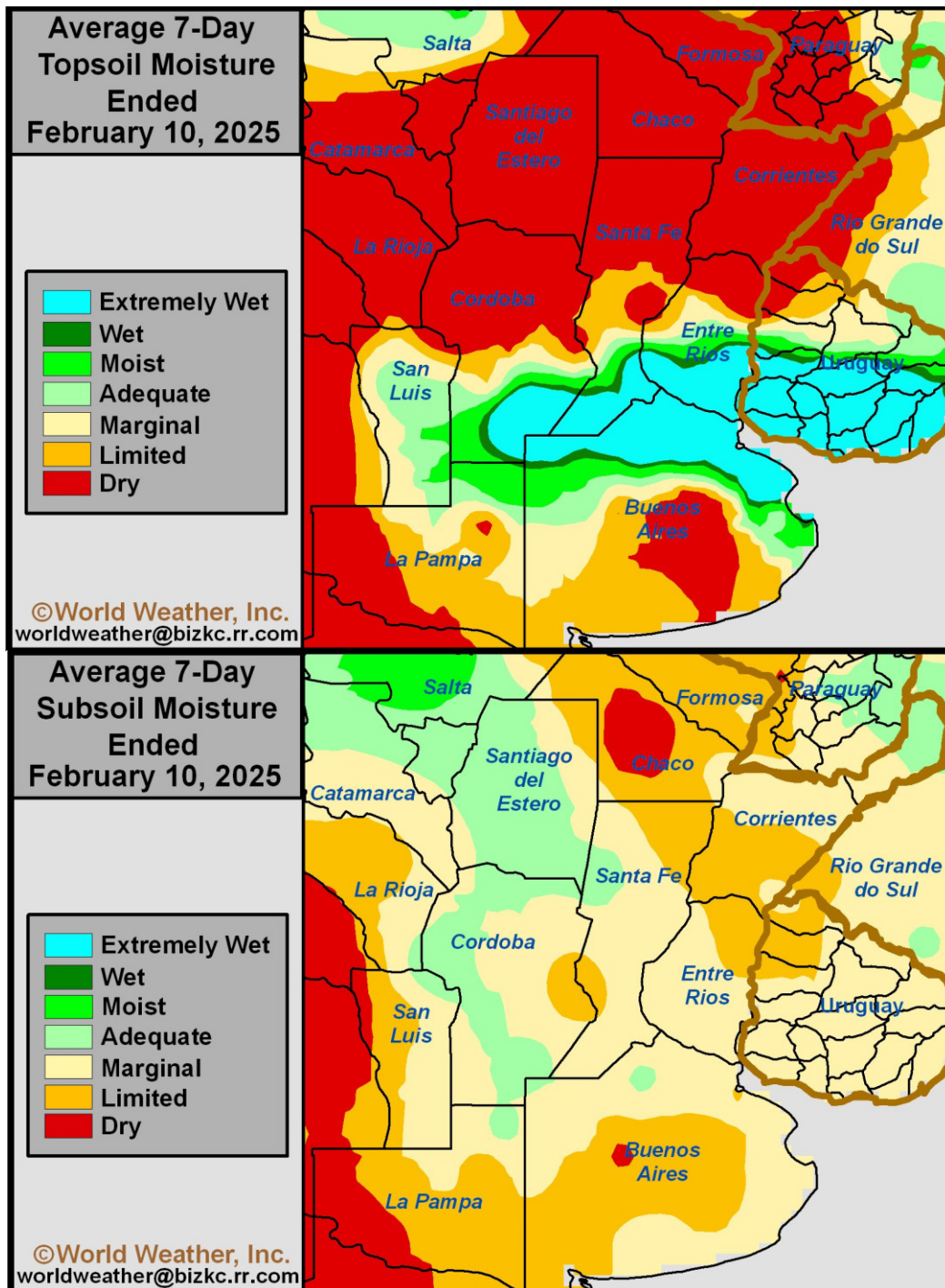
The northern half of Argentina experienced warmer or much warmer than normal conditions at times during the past week. Highest readings climbed above 100 degrees Fahrenheit with pockets warming as high as 111 degrees. The southern half of Argentina

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saw highest readings in the 90s with pockets occasionally warming above 100 degrees. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in northern Argentina only cooling to the lower 70s.

Topsoil moisture increased to adequate or excessive levels across northern Buenos Aires and southern sections of Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios in recent days due to the periods of significant rain. Other production areas still have severe moisture shortages in the topsoil. Subsoil moisture is generally marginally adequate to short, though portions of Cordoba and Santiago del Estero still have adequate amounts of moisture in the subsoil.

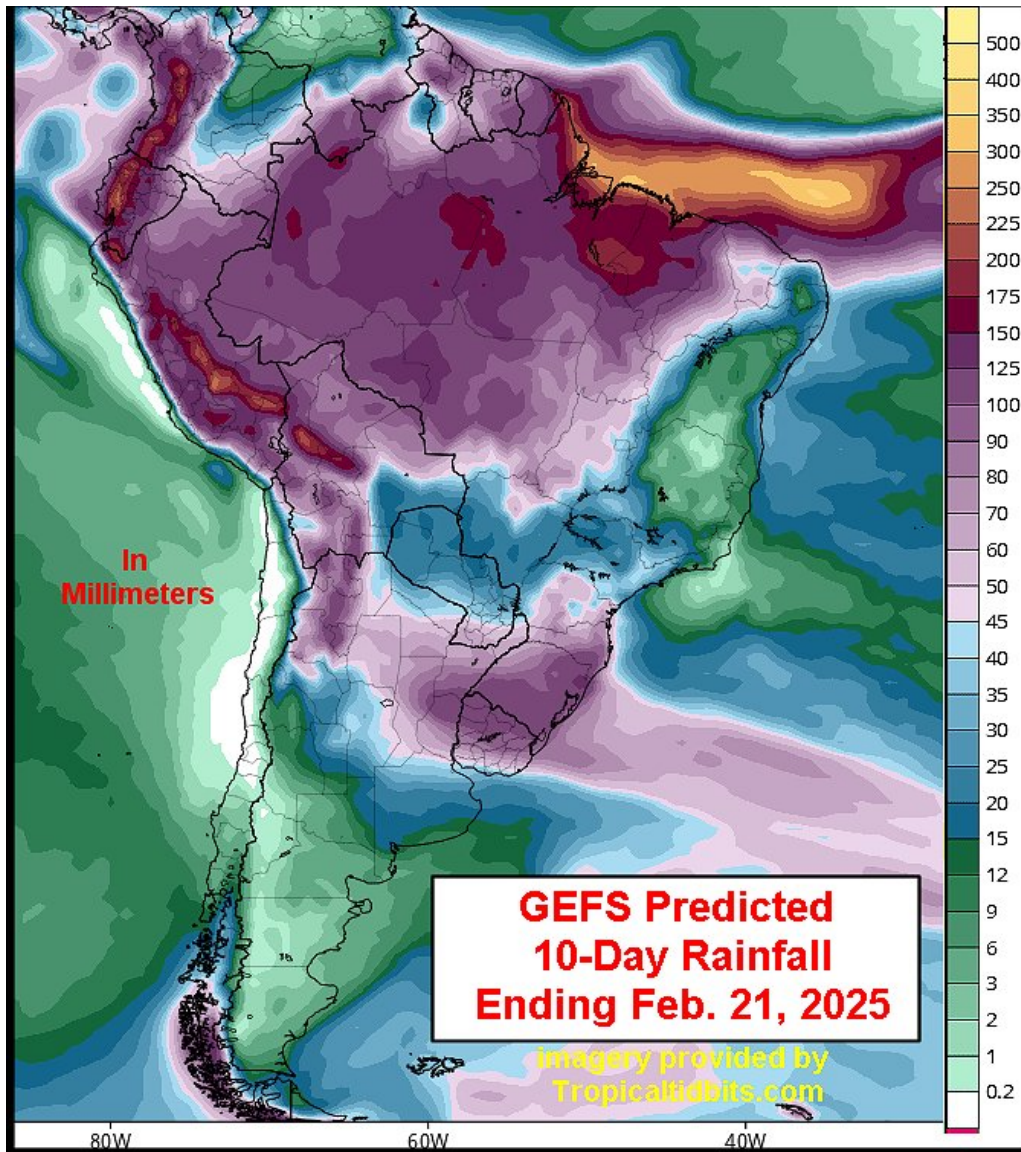
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Heat and ongoing dryness likely hurt several grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops in the northern half of crop country in Argentina during the past week. The rain was welcome where it occurred in the southern half of crop country, though some of the driest fields need additional rain to completely fix the moisture deficits. The lack of rain and periods of warm or hot weather in January started to hurt production potentials in portions of Argentina. The more advanced crops were likely still stressed from central sections of Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios northward into the northern production areas and

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additional yield cuts were possible. Timely rain is needed in the near future to limit any further production cuts.



Precipitation will again vary across Argentina's crop country this week. The first wave of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will evolve from south to north overnight tonight into early Thursday. Waves of erratic rain will occur later Thursday into Friday and again this weekend, as additional disturbances continue to travel over the country. Cordoba, Santa Fe, Entre Rios, southern sections of Santiago del Estero and Corrientes, and northern Buenos Aires will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with local amounts over 5.00 inches in Entre Rios by next Monday morning. The remaining production areas in northern and southern Argentina will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain with locally greater amounts. Argentina will again have several opportunities for rain February 18 – 24. Precipitation will likely favor northern and central sections of the production region while many areas in southern Argentina only receive light amounts of rain.

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Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for Argentina this week. Daytime highs will peak to a range from 90 to 110 degrees in northern and central Argentina today and Tuesday while southern Argentina warms to the 80s and 90s. Highs for the remainder of the week will settle to the 80s and 90s with pockets in northern Argentina still warming above 100 degrees. Pockets in southern Argentina will also only warm to the 70s. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with portions of northern Argentina only cooling to the 70s. The temperature profile will remain near to above normal February 18 – 24.

***Waves of rain in the coming weeks will further increase the moisture profile for a large section of Argentina. Crops will react favorably to the rain and development conditions should improve or remain relatively favorable. The driest locations in northern Argentina will still need additional rain to completely fix the moisture deficits and promote better long-term development conditions.***

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