

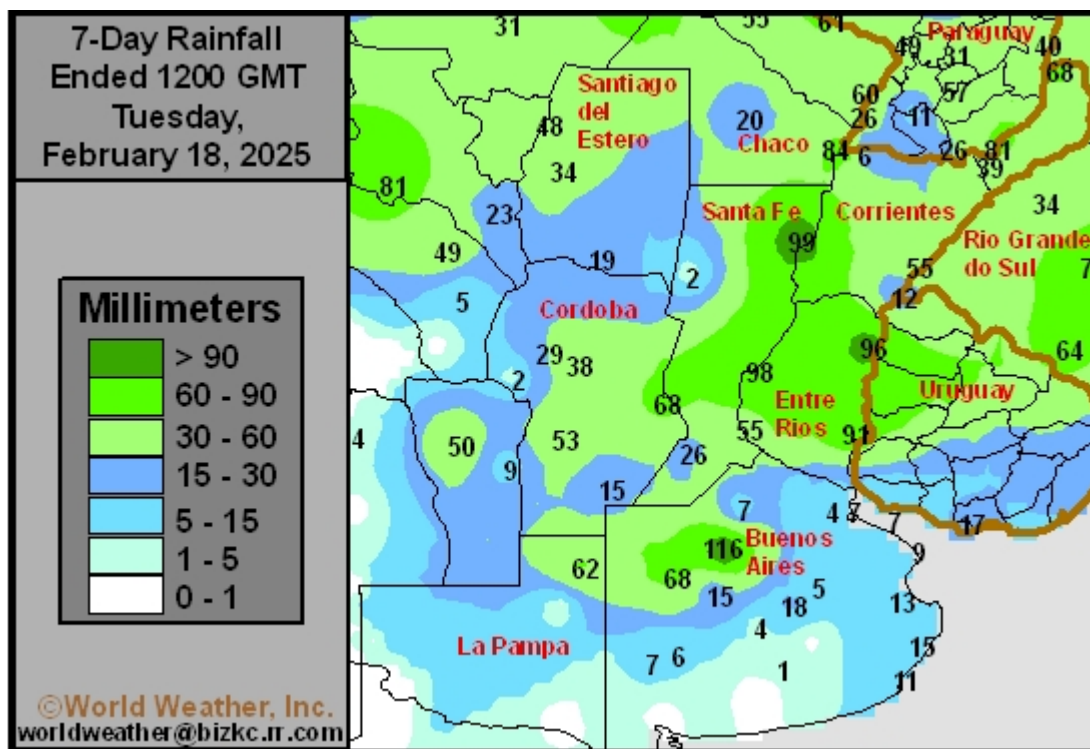
# Central, Northern Argentina Will See Drier Weather Return

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 18 (World Weather Inc.) – Significant rain was noted in a large section of Argentina's production region during the past week. The rain was welcome and helped improve development conditions. However, dry and hot weather earlier in the growing season has already hurt production potentials in several locations. Rainfall will be restricted to Buenos Aires, La Pampa, Formosa, and immediate neighboring areas during the coming week while the remaining production areas receive little to no rain. Most locations will have enough moisture to support new growth during the next several days. However, the need for rain will again increase late this month and early March to avoid additional production cuts due to dryness.

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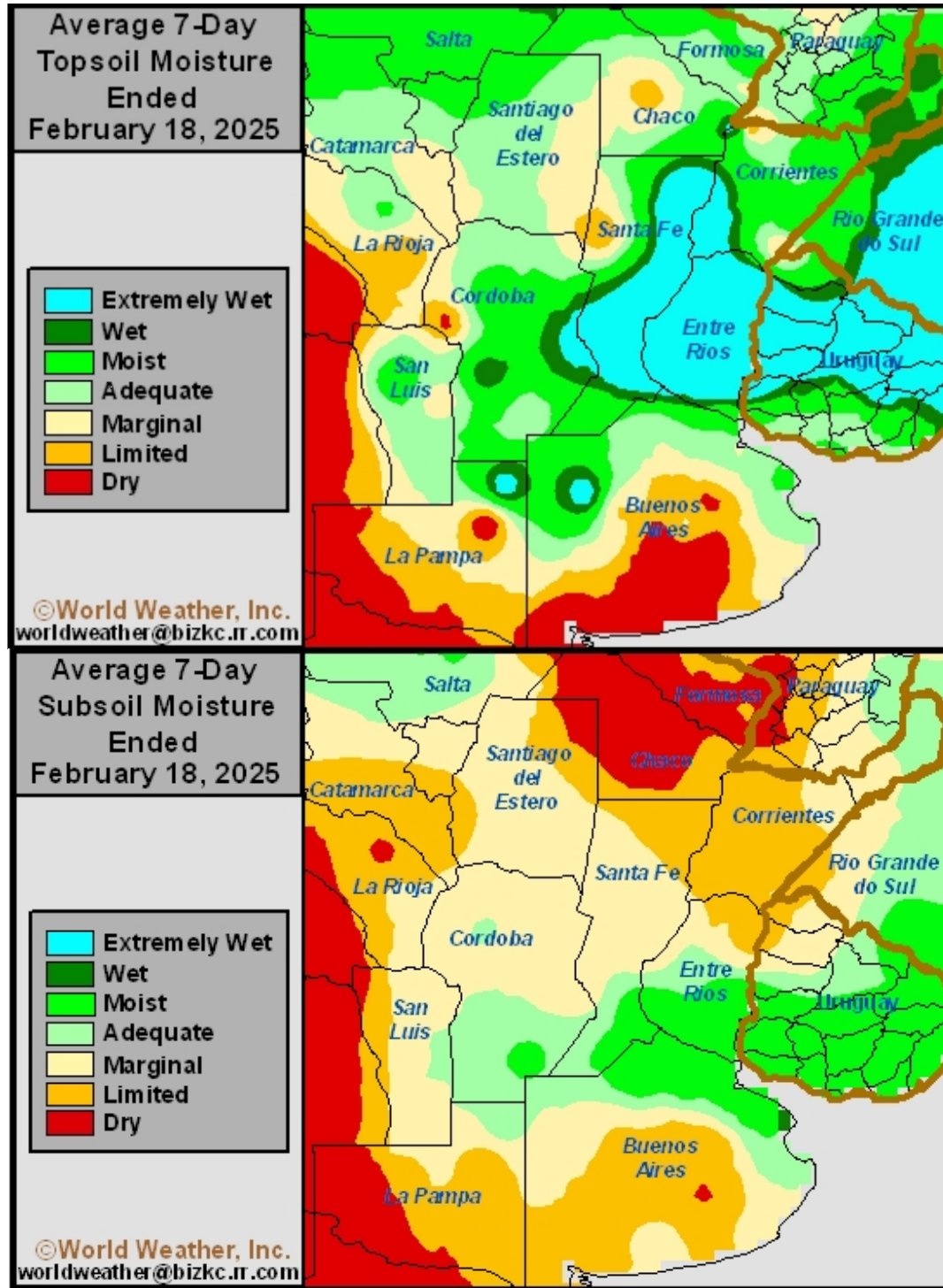
Waves of rain were noted in much of Argentina during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.75 to 2.68 inches with local amounts up to 4.57 inches in northwestern Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, and Santa Fe. Several areas in southern and eastern Buenos Aires also only received 0.16 to 0.71 inch of moisture.



Temperatures were near to above normal during the past week. The northern half of crop country saw highest readings range from 90 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Highest readings in the southern half of Argentina were in the 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 60s and lower 70s in the northern half of Argentina. Southern Argentina saw lowest readings in the 40s and 50s with portions of Buenos Aires cooling to the 30s. No damaging cold weather was noted.

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Topsoil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of Argentina due to the recent rainfall. However, several areas in central and southern Buenos Aires still have short or critically short moisture. Subsoil moisture is short in much of northern Argentina and portions of central and southern Buenos Aires. Other locations have adequate or marginally adequate amounts of moisture in the subsoil.

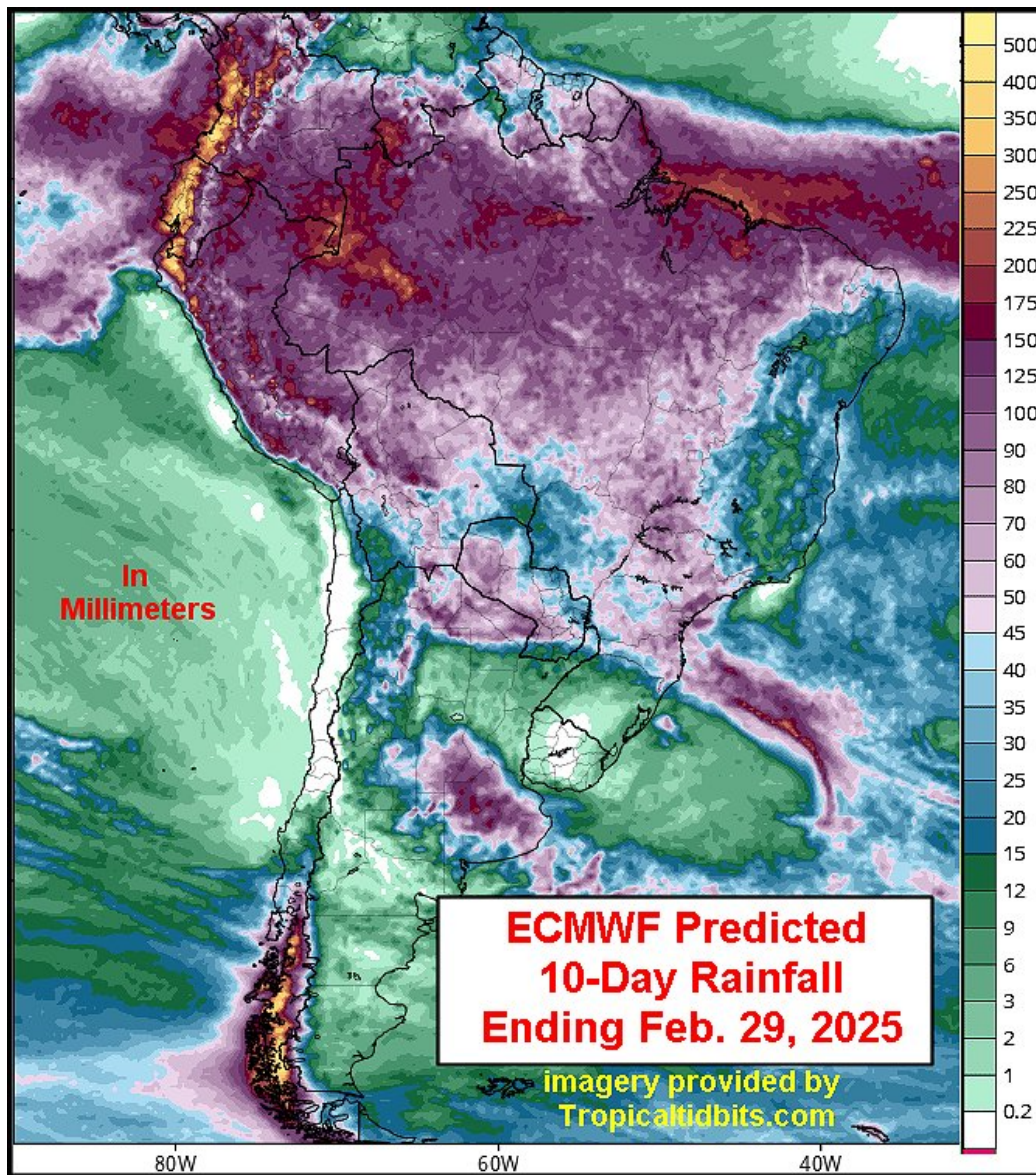




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Recent rainfall was enough to significantly improve development conditions across Argentina. Heat and dryness earlier this month and in January hurt reproducing and filling early season corn, sorghum and sunseed yields. Crop stress also impacted late season crops, but the recent boost in precipitation has revitalized the late crop (which represents at least to thirds of the overall production). Some yield potential may improve because of the recent rain especially if there is follow up moisture into March.

Early season rice and sunseed harvesting is underway in portions of Argentina and drier weather would be welcome as the harvest expands in the coming weeks.



## WEATHER OUTLOOK

Rain will linger in Formosa and a few neighboring areas of Salta and Chaco today and Wednesday and a few more showers and thunderstorms may pop up Friday into Saturday. The only other rain of significance is expected to evolve this weekend and

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continue next week in La Pampa and Buenos Aires as a new slow-moving frontal boundary begins to influence southern Argentina. Most other areas will be dry and quite warm through Monday. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.40 to 1.50 inches with local amounts of 2.50 inches or more in Buenos Aires a portion of eastern La Pampa and far southern Santa Fe. Some similar rain totals may occur in Salta and Formosa. The remaining production areas will receive little to no rain.

Some of the rain in southern Argentina will begin to shift northward into the drier areas of central and interior northern areas of Argentina next week with the middle to latter part of the week into the following weekend wettest. *The moisture in central and northern areas will be very important by that time after nearly ten days of dry and very warm temperatures.*

In addition to limiting rainfall for much of crop country, a ridge of high pressure will also promote periods of above or well above normal temperatures for Argentina during the coming week. Daytime highs will peak in the 70s and 80s today. Highs for the remainder of the coming week will be in the 80s and 90s with portions of Buenos Aires and La Pampa only warming to the 70s during periods of rain this weekend and early next week. The northern half of Argentina will also warm above 100 degrees Sunday and early next week. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with many areas in southern Argentina cooling to the 50s Wednesday. Temperatures will drop to more seasonable levels February 26 – March 4 once the ridge breaks down.

*Interior southern Argentina will receive enough rain and have mild enough temperatures to maintain a relatively good environment for new crop development. Far southern portions of Argentina should get enough rain to finally bring a little relief to chronic dryness, although much more rain will be needed.* Areas farther north in the nation will otherwise dry down aggressively during the coming week to ten days once the ridge establishes over Argentina.

*The main production areas in the nation should have enough moisture to support new growth during the next several days. A few fields may become too dry for ideal conditions over the weekend and next week and the need for rain will increase. As long as precipitation during the second week of the outlook verifies, production impacts should be minimal.*

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