

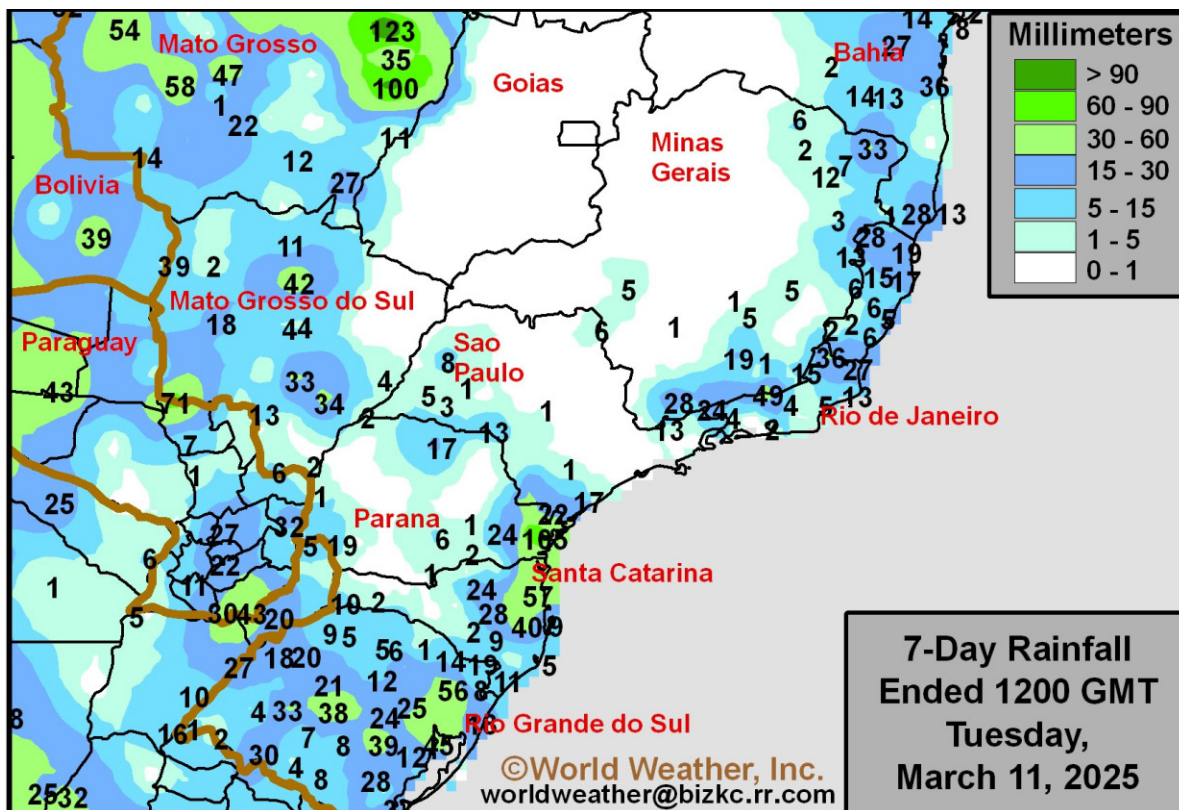
Brazil Soybean Harvest To Continue Around Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 11 (World Weather Inc.) – Soybean harvest progress remains a few percentage points ahead of this time last year as drier than normal weather was again noted across Brazil. Over half of the crop was out of the ground and conditions will remain favorable for aggressive harvesting in the coming days despite some rain. Safrinha corn planting is also winding down, though progress remains a little behind compared to this time last year. *Center-west Brazil has some moisture to support relatively good establishment and early-season growth. Other production areas have dried down and need to see more significant rain for ideal long-term crop conditions. Rainfall in center-south Brazil during the coming week will marginally bolster soil moisture. However, the driest locations may need additional rain to completely fix the moisture deficits.*

Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, eastern fringes of Parana and Santa Catarina, and portions of Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo, northeastern and southern Minas Gerais, and southeastern Bahia saw a mix of rain and dry weather during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning generally ranged from 0.43 to 2.28 inches of rain with drier pockets. A few locations in northern Parana and western Sao Paulo received 0.20 to 0.67 inch of rain. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere.

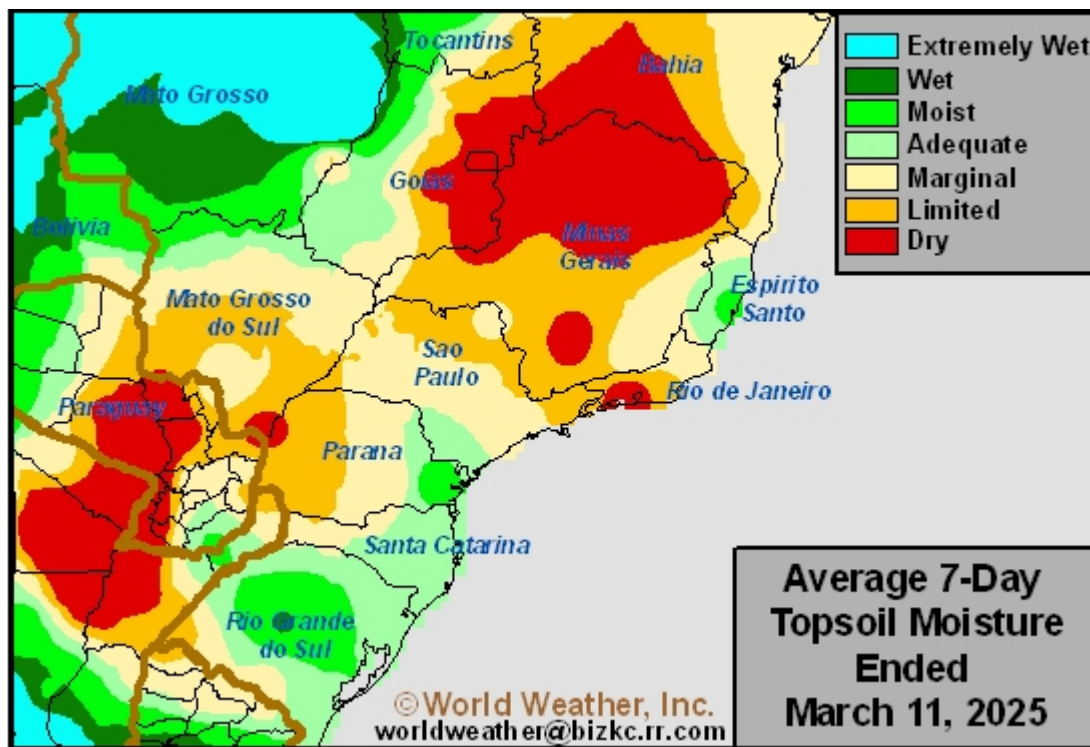
Temperatures this past week were near to above normal across crop country with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. Pockets in Rio Grande do Sul also warmed above 100 degrees. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in center-west Brazil only cooling to the lower 70s.



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Soil moisture varies significantly with only Mato Grosso and a few locations in Rio Grande do Sul having adequate or excessive moisture in the topsoil. Other locations have marginally adequate or short topsoil moisture with many areas in Bahia, northern Minas Gerais and eastern Goias quite dry. Subsoil moisture remains adequate or marginally adequate in most locations; however, northern Minas Gerais and neighboring locations have a shortage of moisture in the subsoil as well.

As of March 9, soybean harvesting was 60.9% complete, up from 55.5% this time last year and 56.3% for the previous five-year average. First-season corn harvesting was 34.5% complete, compared to 32.9% last year and 32.0% for the previous five-year average. Dry bean harvesting was 59.1% complete while rice harvesting was 23.7% complete. The lack of abundant rain again helped support a good environment for harvesting and general fieldwork during the past week.



Safrinha corn planting was otherwise 83.1% complete as of March 9, down from 86.2% this time last year but ahead of 82.3% for the previous five-year average. Mato Grosso and neighboring locations have ample moisture to support relatively good establishment and early-season development. The remaining safrinha corn areas are becoming too dry for ideal establishment and the need for rain is growing.

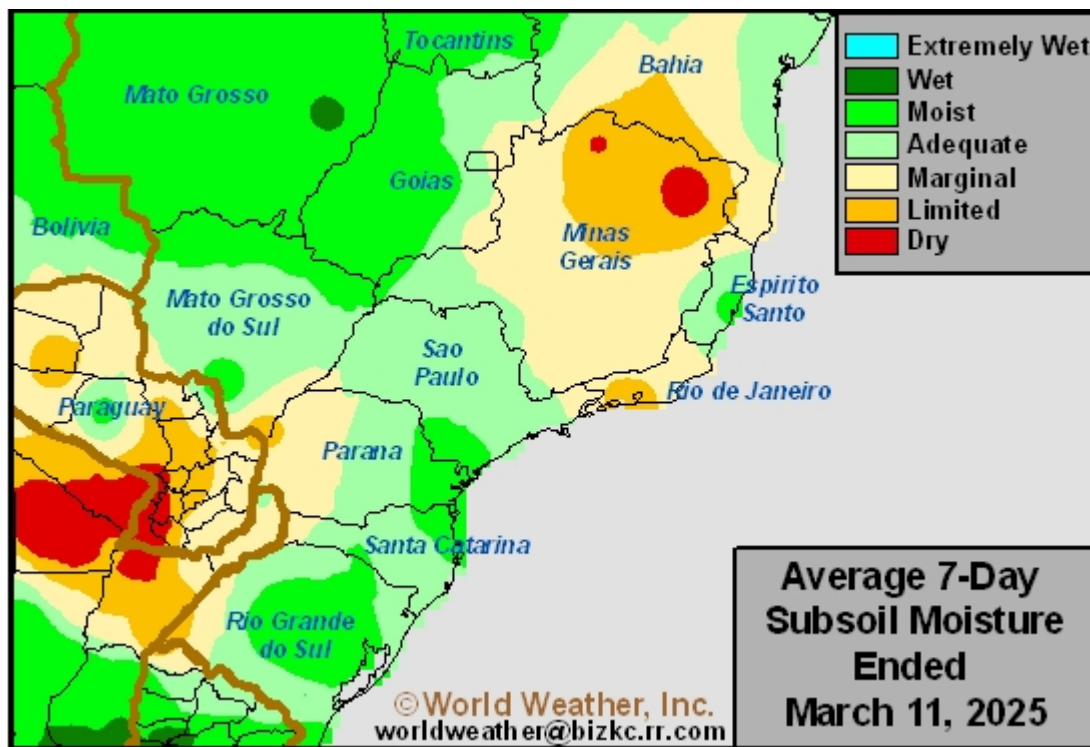
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Erratic rainfall will evolve from center-west and center-south Brazil into southern and central Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Parana, and Santa Catarina on a frequent basis during the coming week. The most widespread rain will occur through Friday before

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diminishing in portions of southern Brazil, Sao Paulo, and neighboring locations over the weekend and early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.50 inches with local amounts of 3.50 inches or more in Mato Grosso, Rio de Janeiro, and neighboring locations. Southern Rio Grande do Sul will also receive rain late Wednesday and Thursday as a disturbance passes nearby. Moisture totals will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches. Northeastern Brazil and the remaining locations in Rio Grande do Sul will otherwise receive little to no rain. Much of Brazil's crop country will see a mix of rain and dry weather March 19 – 25.

Temperatures will trend near normal in Brazil during the coming week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s most often with portions of southern Brazil only warming to the 70s through Friday. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and lower 70s with portions of southern Brazil often cooling to the 50s. Temperatures will remain near normal March 19 – 25.



Soybean, first-season corn, and other crop harvesting should advance around the periods of erratic rainfall during the coming week. However, minor delays will be possible in areas that receive the greatest amount of rain in center-west Brazil and Minas Gerais. Safrinha corn planting will likely continue around the periods of rain as well. Center-west Brazil will have enough moisture to maintain good establishment and early-season growth.

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