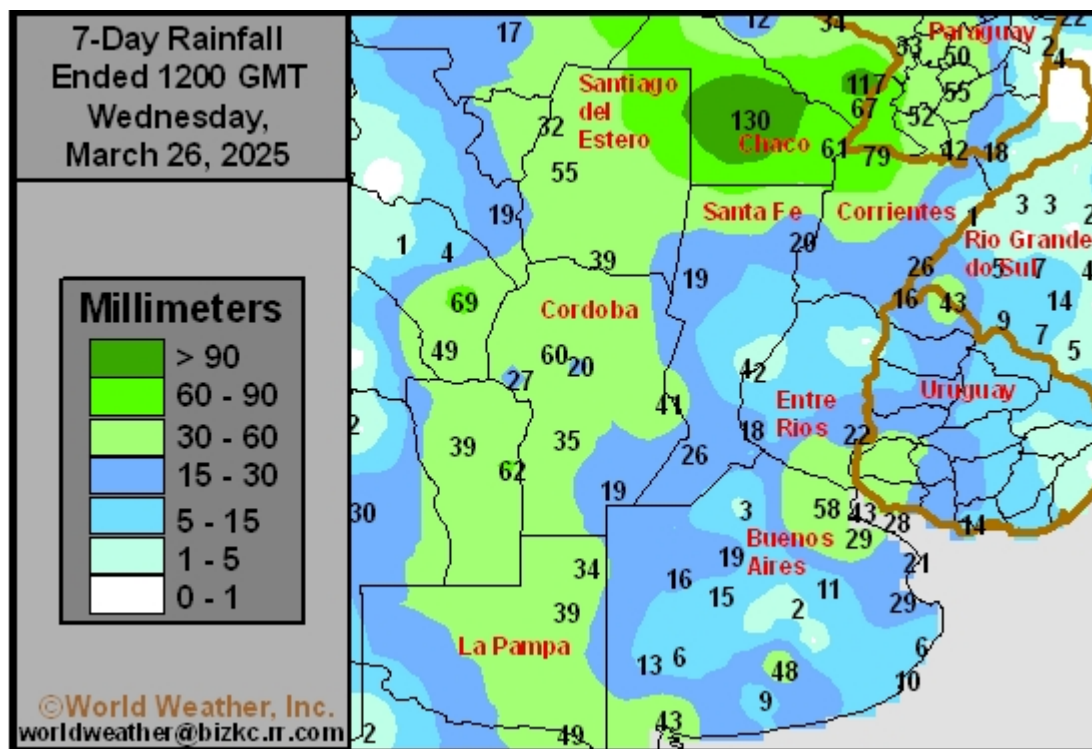


Argentina Rainfall Beneficial For Late-Season Growth

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 26 (World Weather Inc.) – Several areas in Argentina received much-needed rain during the past week, most notably in the north where drought was prevalent earlier this month. The rain was beneficial for the coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops that were still developing. Additional rain through the middle of next week will maintain a good environment for late-season growth in much of the country. Despite the additional rain, there are concerns production may be lower than previously expected in some of the northern production areas due to the dryness and heat earlier in the season. The periods of rain in the coming days may otherwise slow harvesting of the early-planted crops.

Chaco, Formosa, and northern Corrientes received some of the most significant rain in Argentina during the past week with moisture totals ranging from 2.40 to 5.12 inches. Santiago del Estero, Cordoba, San Luis, La Pampa, and northeastern and extreme southern Buenos Aires received 0.75 to 2.44 inches of rain. Net drying occurred from much of Santa Fe and southern Corrientes through Entre Rios to interior portions of Buenos Aires due to rain amounts of 0.24 to 1.14 inches failing to counter evaporation. Some areas received less than 0.24 inch.



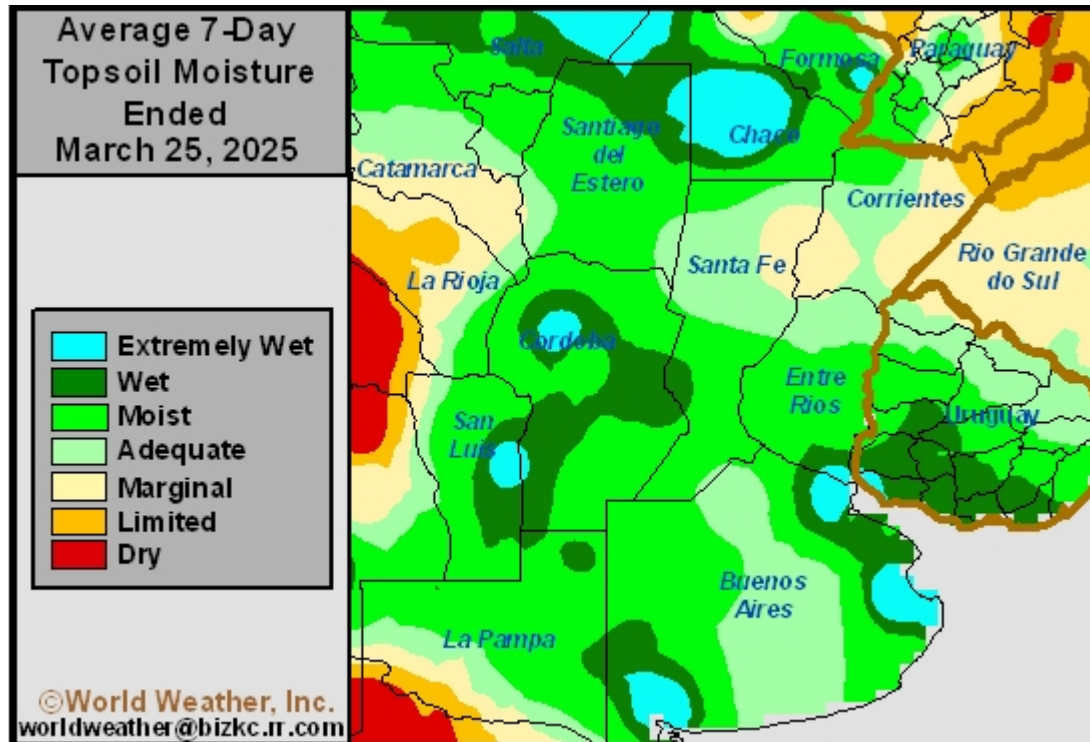
Recent rainfall helped bolster topsoil moisture to adequate or excessive levels in much of northern Argentina. However, these areas still have a severe shortage of moisture at subsoil levels. The Pampas farming region otherwise has adequate amounts of moisture.

Early-season harvesting is ongoing in Argentina. As of March 20, corn harvesting was 9% complete, up from 4% this time last year. Sunseed harvesting was 39% finished,

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well behind 58% last year. Rice harvesting was otherwise ahead of last year's pace, sitting at 63% compared to 42% last year.

Precipitation during the past week continued to support a relatively good environment for late-season growth in the Pampas farming region. Rainfall in northern Argentina was also welcome to improve late-season development. There are concerns that dryness earlier in the growing season already reduced production potentials, generally in the northern production areas, despite the rain during the past week. Late season crops will benefit from the coming week of rain while some maturation and harvesting will be slowed.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

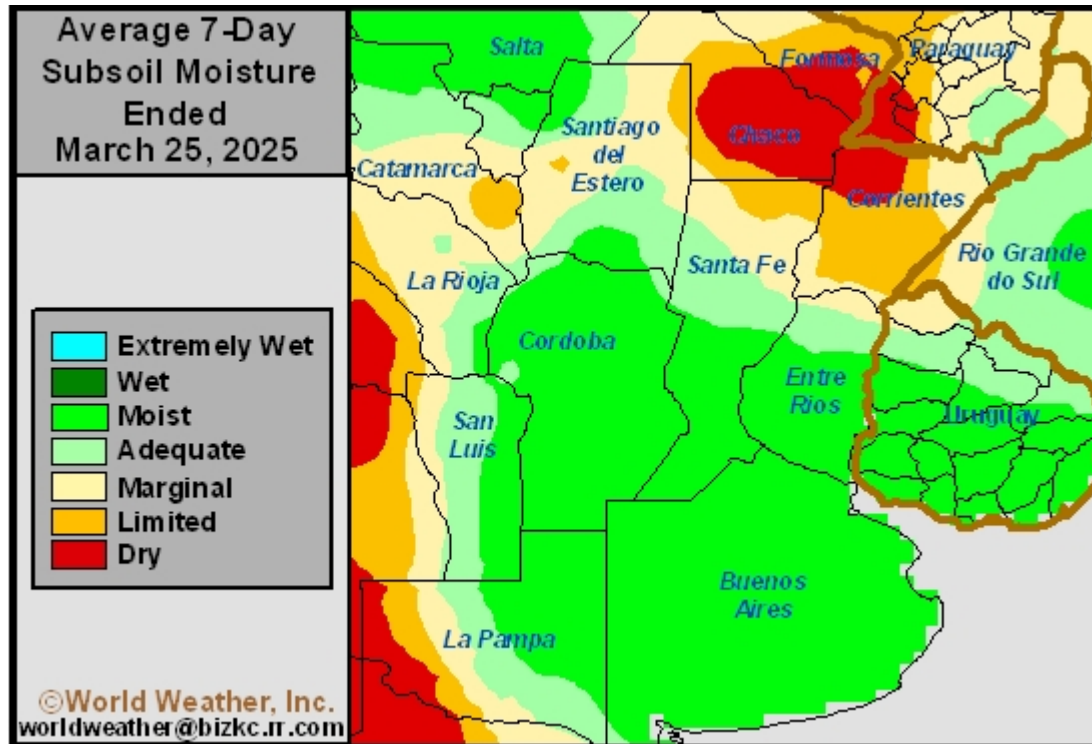
Argentina will see a mix of rain and sunshine through the middle of next week. Two disturbances will initially generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms through Friday. A frontal boundary will generate the next round of rain and thunderstorms late Saturday through Monday. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches in much of crop country with local amounts of 4.00 inches or more in northern Argentina and northern Buenos Aires. Drier than normal weather will be possible for much of the country April 3 – 9, though periods of spotty rain will still be possible.

The temperature profile will trend near or slightly above normal for Argentina through the middle of next week. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit through Saturday. Northern and central Argentina will continue to warm to the 70s and 80s with pockets in the 90s Sunday while highs drop to the 50s and 60s in southern Argentina. Highs will settle to the 60s and 70s with pockets in the 50s at the beginning and middle of next week. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s through the end of the weekend with portions of northern Argentina only cooling to the lower 70s. Lows Monday into next

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Wednesday will drop to the 40s and 50s with portions of northern Argentina only cooling to the 60s. Seasonable to seasonably cool weather is slated for much of Argentina April 3 – 9.

Waves of rain in the coming days will help keep soil moisture at adequate or excessive levels in much of crop country. Late-season development conditions will remain favorable, though the precipitation may be too late in the season to improve yield potentials for crops that suffered from heat and dryness earlier in the season. Harvesting and general fieldwork may also advance slowly at times due to the waves of rain. Minor sunseed quality declines will also be possible in the pockets that receive the greatest amount of rain.



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