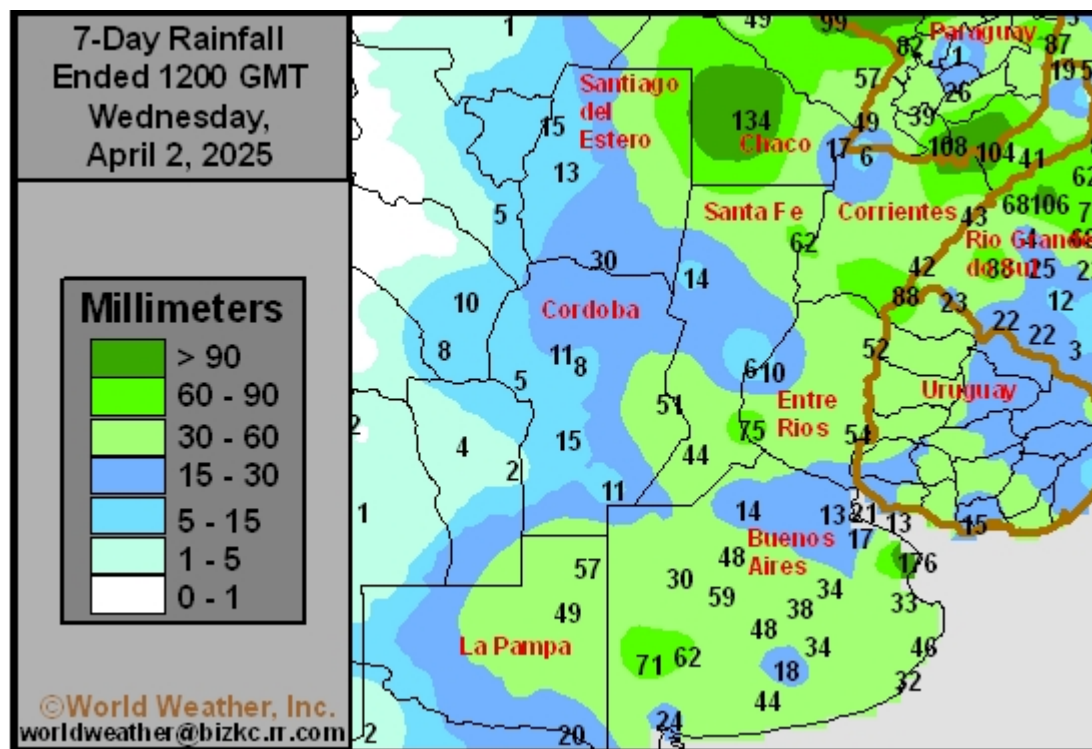


Argentina Summer Crops To Benefit From Net Drying

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 2 (World Weather Inc.) – Waves of rain were noted in Argentina during the past week and the resulting moisture should be enough to maintain a good environment for aggressive late-season coarse grain, oilseed, cotton, and other crop development. Maturation and harvesting of early season crops may have advanced slowly at times because of rain, though quality impacts were suspected of being minimal. Drier-than-normal weather is now slated for the main production areas through the middle of next week and should favor late season crop development as well as support improving maturation and harvest conditions

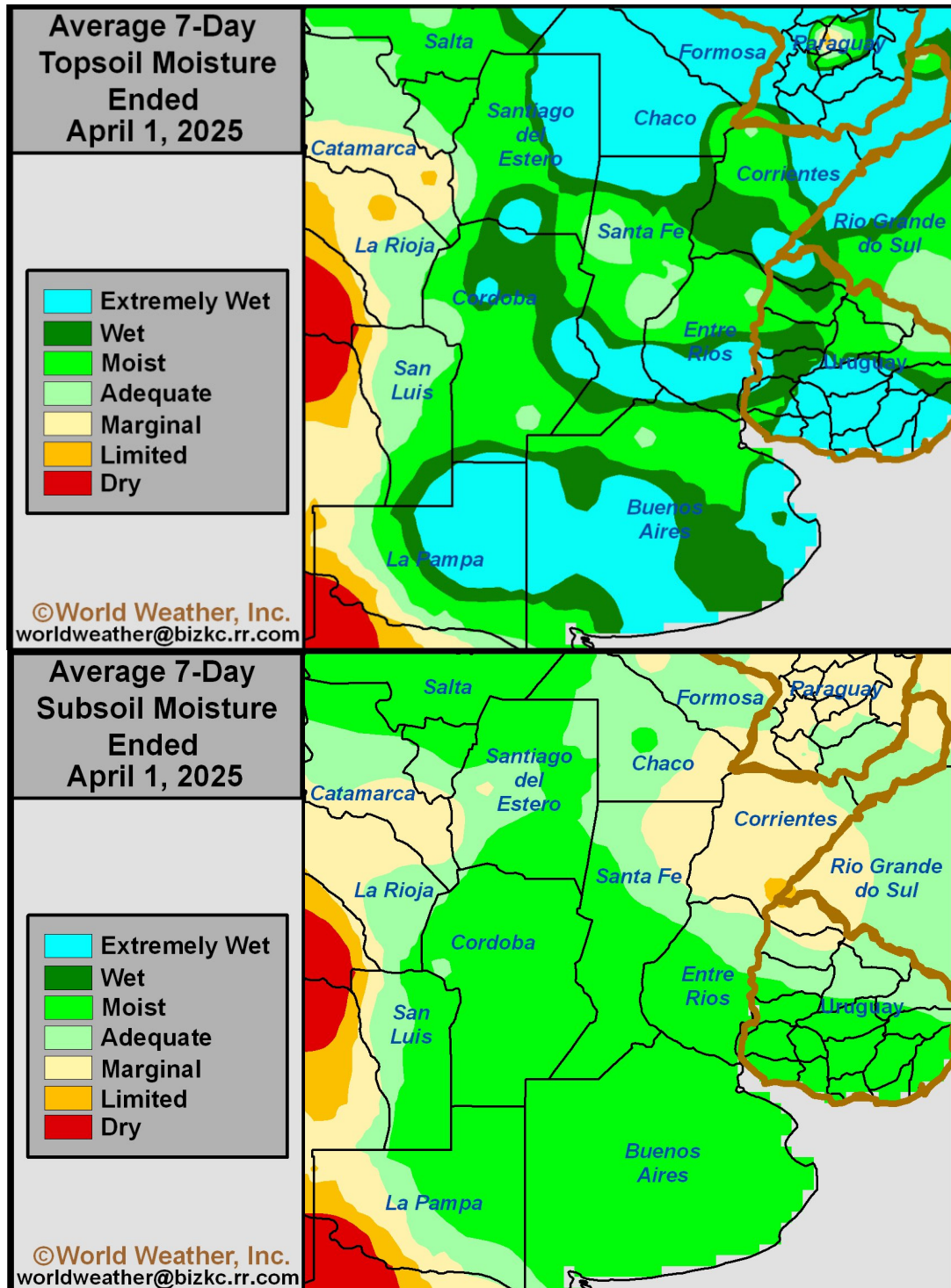
Argentina's main production areas saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. San Luis and western sections of Cordoba and Santiago del Estero only received 0.16 to 0.59 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. The remaining locations in the Pampas farming region and northern Argentina received 0.50 to nearly 3.00 inches of rain with local amounts up to 5.28 inches in Chaco. Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of the country due to the recent rain.



Harvesting of some of the early season crops is ongoing in Argentina. **As of March 27, corn harvesting was 13% complete, up from 7% this time last year. Sunseed harvesting was 58% finished, down from 78% last year. Rive harvesting was 72% complete, up from 54% last year.** The periods of rain during the past week may have slowed the harvest and general fieldwork, though no major delays were suspected. Harvesting of the remaining crops will slowly expand later this month into May as more crops mature.

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The environment for late-season development otherwise remained favorable for much of Argentina during the past week due to the waves of rain. Production potentials may have improved marginally in fields that were previously struggling with dryness. Quality impacts for the crops that are already maturing was likely minimal. With more crops maturing and getting ready for harvest in coming weeks, the need for drier weather is increasing.



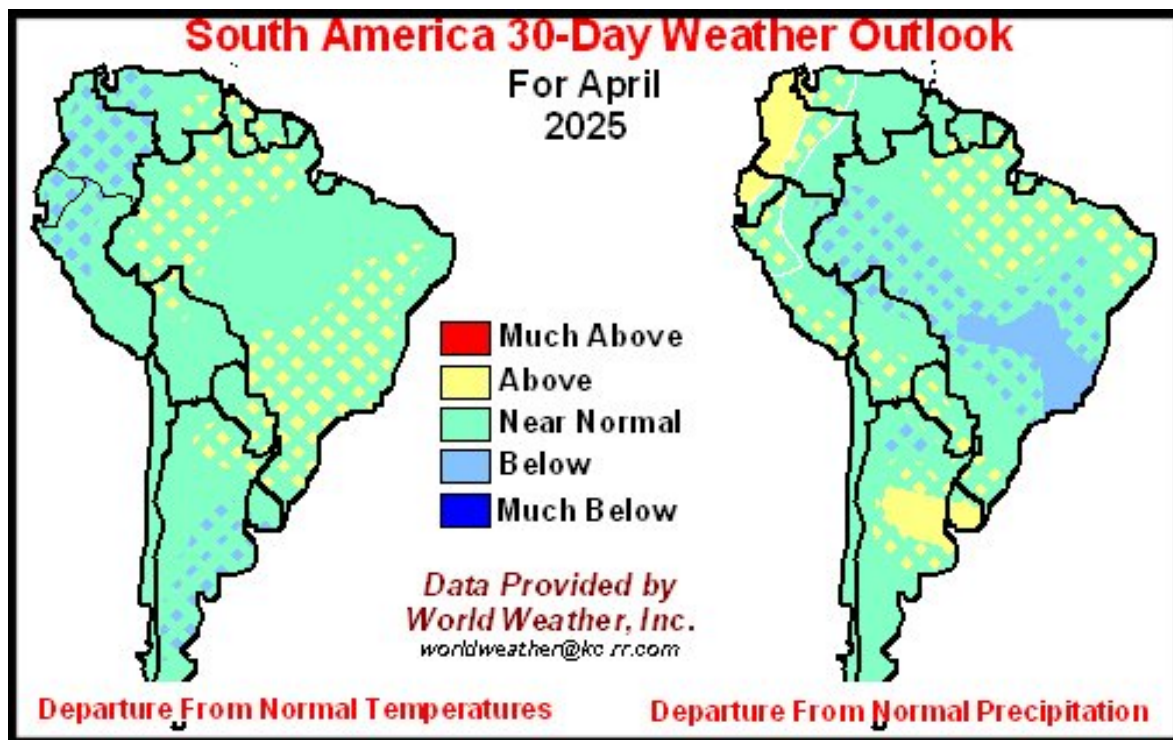
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FORECAST WEATHER

Drier-than-normal weather is slated for Argentina through the middle of next week. Northern fringes of crop country will still receive light rain through early Friday and again later this weekend and early next week. Southern Buenos Aires will also receive light rain Thursday with the passage of a frontal boundary. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch in southern Buenos Aires, Corrientes, Formosa, and pockets of Chaco. The remaining locations in Argentina will be mostly dry. Argentina will then have a few opportunities for erratic precipitation April 10 – 16.

Seasonable to seasonably cool weather is slated for Argentina through the middle of next week. Daytime highs will peak to the 60s and 70s Fahrenheit with portions of southern Argentina only warming to the 50s Thursday and Friday. Nighttime lows will be in the 40s and 50s in the southern half of crop country with pockets cooling to the 30s Friday and Saturday. The northern half of crop country will cool to the 50s and 60s with pockets in the 40s. Temperatures will trend near or slightly above normal April 10 – 16.

The lack of rain and relatively warm daytime temperatures will improve maturation and harvest conditions across Argentina in the coming week. Late-season development conditions will remain favorable across the country as well despite the lack of rain.



Weather in Argentina will be quite similar to that of March with greater than usual rainfall in southern and central Argentina while the far north is a little drier biased. Northern Argentina temperatures should be near to above normal while those readings in the south are expected to be near to below normal.

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