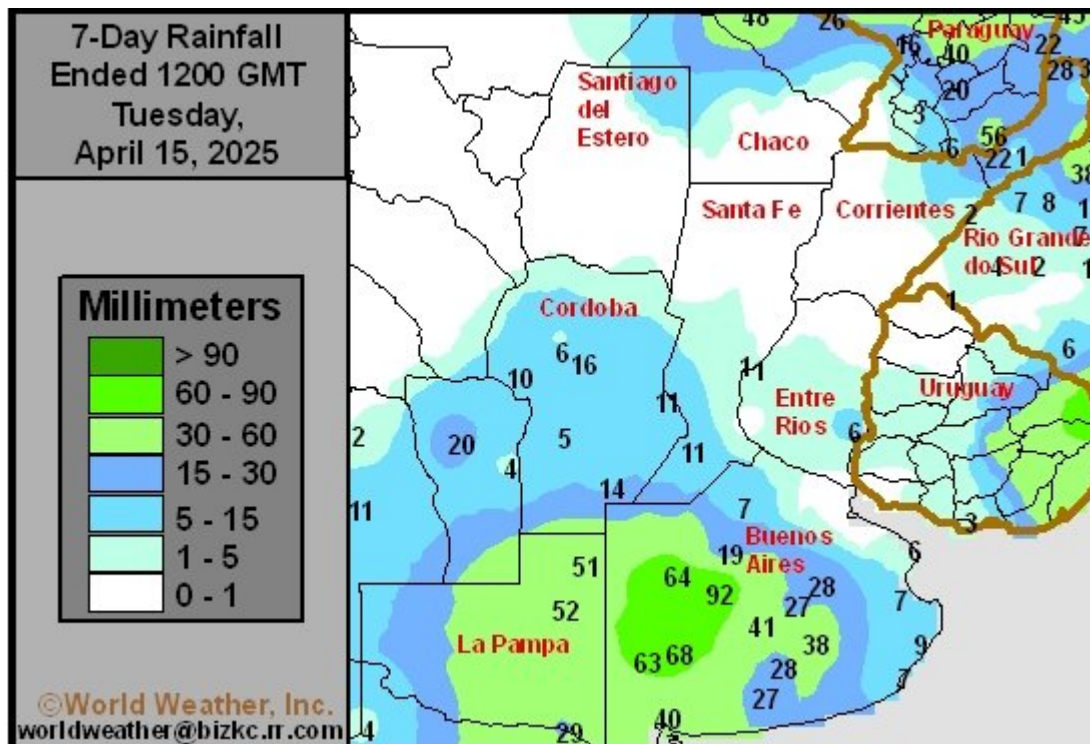


Southern Argentina Turns Wetter; Net Drying Likely North

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 16 (World Weather Inc.) – *Southern Argentina rainfall recently has saturated the soil in portions of eastern La Pampa and western central Buenos Aires. The wetter bias has likely resulted in some harvest and crop maturation delays; though, the rain has been good for late season crops. No prolonged field working disruption has occurred, although some drying would be welcome in southern parts of the nation.* Central and southern Argentina will receive additional spotty rainfall during the coming week. The rain may slow the harvest at times. However, much of the precipitation will be too light to significantly bolster soil moisture and net drying should result. A more aggressive pace of drying is likely in central and northern parts of the nation where the greatest field progress is likely.

Precipitation varied across Argentina's main production areas during the past week. La Pampa and a large section of western and central Buenos Aires received 1.06 to 2.68 inches of rain with a local amount of 3.62 inches in western Buenos Aires for the seven-day period ending Tuesday morning. Other locations in Buenos Aires into Cordoba and San Luis received 0.20 to 0.79 inch of rain. Little to no precipitation was noted in the remaining production areas. Temperatures were near normal with highest readings in the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit. Lowest temperatures were in the 40s and 50s.

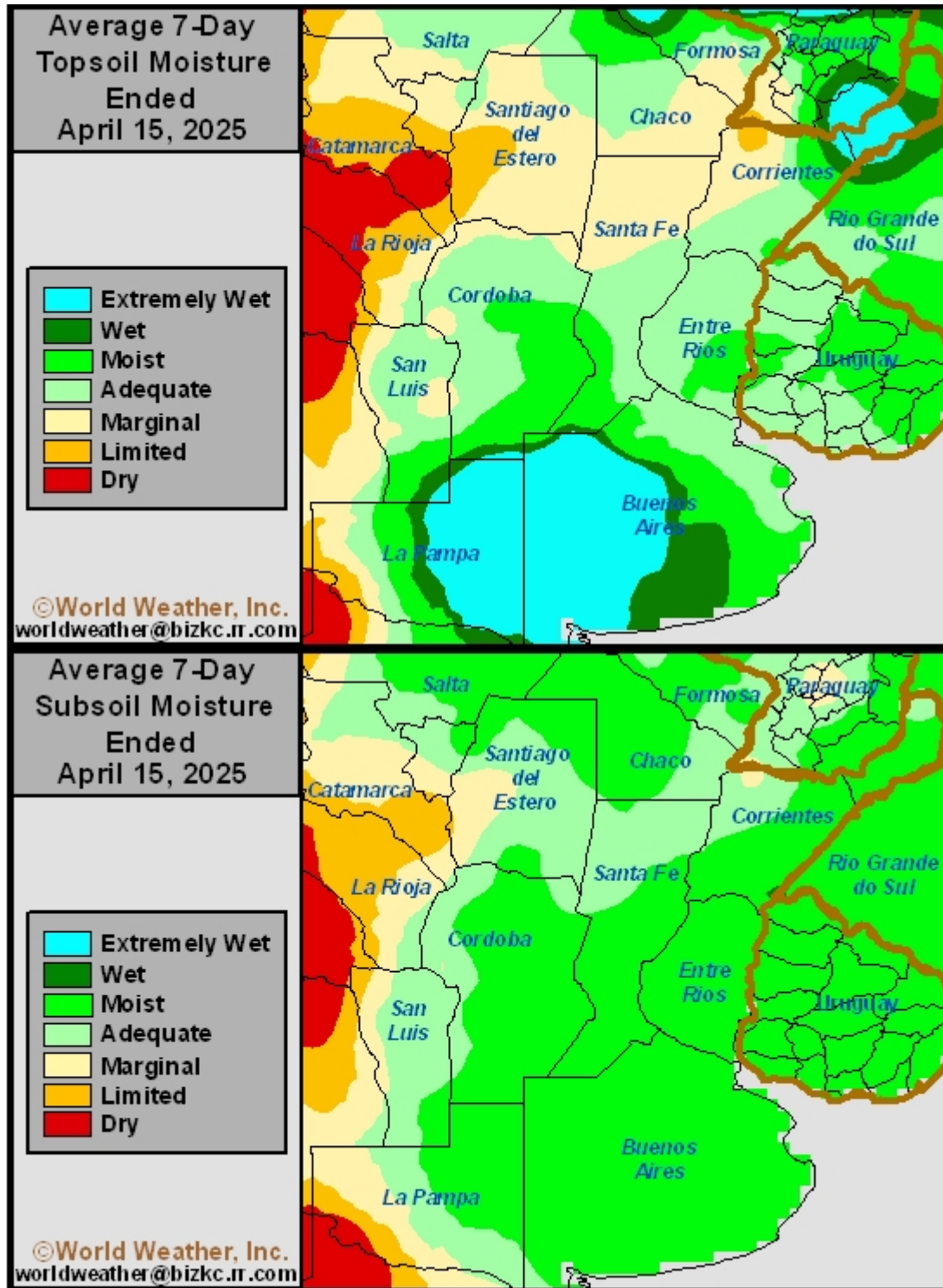


Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of southern Argentina. Central and northern Argentina has adequate to marginally adequate amounts of moisture.

Harvesting continued across Argentina during the past week. As of April 10, rice harvesting was 86% complete while sunseed harvesting was 89% finished. Corn harvesting

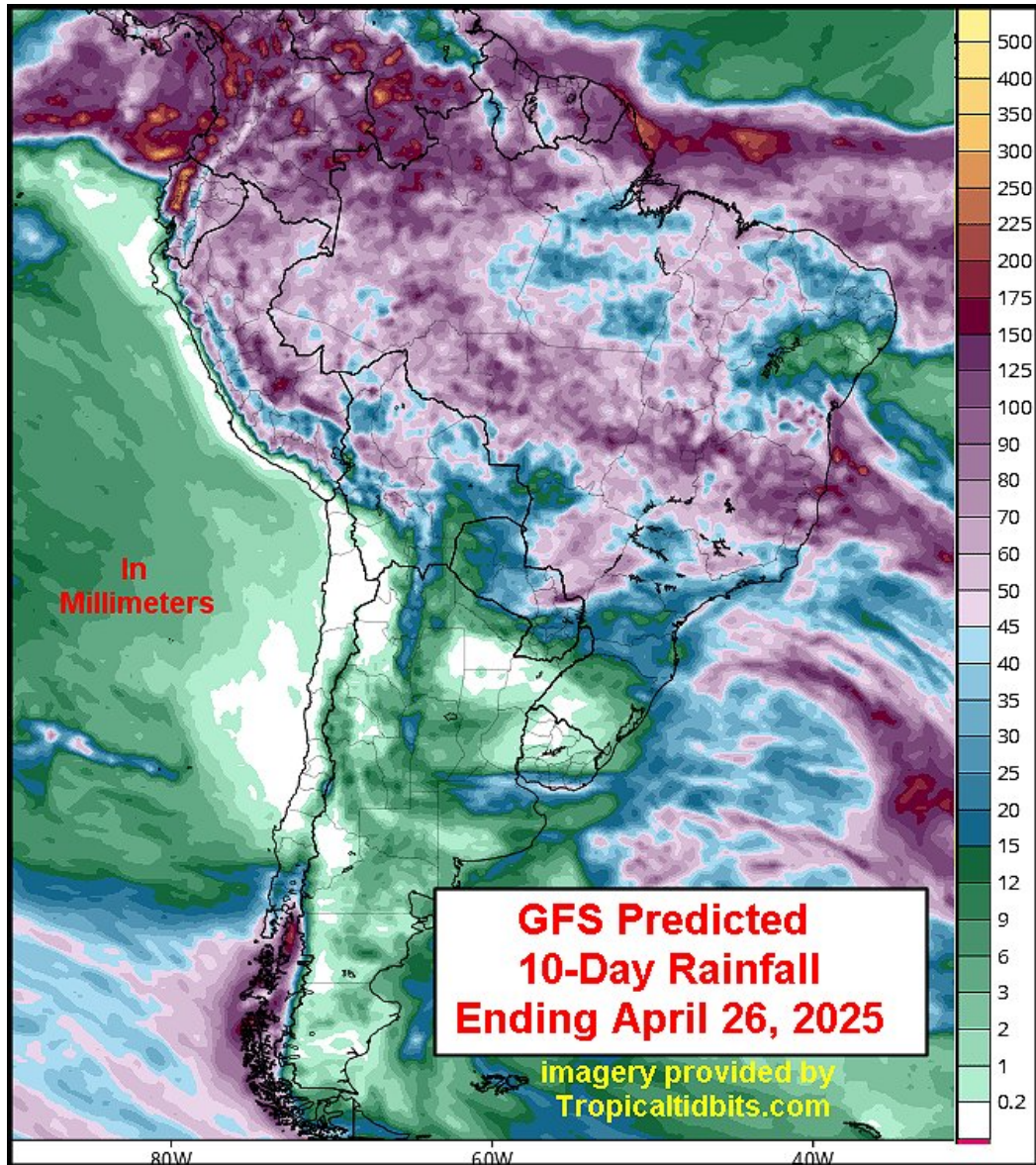
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continued and was 22% complete, up slightly from 20% this time last year. Sorghum harvesting was 17% complete, up two percentage points from last year. The Buenos Aires Grains Exchange suggested 2.6% of the soybeans were out of the ground, down 8 percentage points from last year and 4 percentage points for the previous five-year average.



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Late-season development conditions remained relatively favorable in Argentina despite portions of central and northern Argentina receiving little or no rain. Several fields in the Pampas farming region are otherwise a little too wet for ideal maturation and harvesting. Drier and warmer weather would be welcome to firm up the ground and support better harvest conditions.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

The Pampas farming region will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall during the coming week. A series of disturbances will generate scattered showers on a frequent basis into Friday. Drier weather will evolve over the weekend and early next week, though a few light showers will still be possible. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.50 inches in much of central and southern Argentina with local amounts of 2.00 inches or more possible in Buenos Aires. Northern Argentina will trend drier than

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usual, though brief periods of light rain will still occur in Formosa. Rain totals will range from 0.10 to 0.50 inch by next Tuesday morning. Argentina's main production areas will again have a few opportunities for spotty rainfall April 23 – 29.

The temperature profile will trend near normal for Argentina during the coming week. Daytime highs will peak in the 60s and 70s most often with many areas in northern Argentina and pockets in central Argentina warming to the 80s through Friday. Low temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s in the southern half of Argentina and the 50s and 60s for areas farther north. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for much of crop country April 23 – 29.

Additional rain in the coming days will potentially slow or delay harvesting and general fieldwork in the wettest areas of the Pampas farming region. No major delays or quality declines are expected and producers may be able to harvest between rain events. Harvest conditions will improve over the weekend and early next week once the drier weather evolves.

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