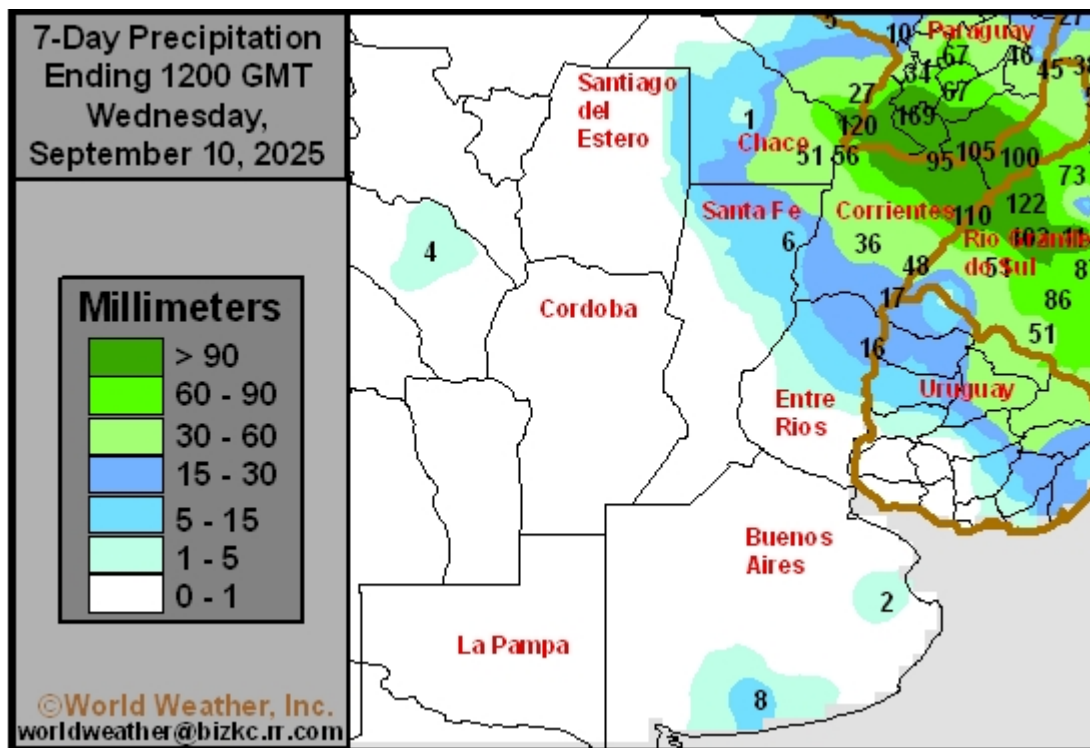


Argentina Soil Moisture Ideal For Wheat, Sunseed and Corn

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, September 11 (World Weather Inc.) – Soil moisture is rated quite favorably in much of Argentina and with additional rain expected in the latter part of next week and into the following weekend the prospects for wheat and barley development are very good. Early season sunseed planting is already under way and it should benefit greatly from the soil moisture present today and that which is forthcoming following new rain next week. Early corn planting will begin soon, as well, and it too will benefit from the moisture. In the meantime, net drying in recent days has firmed the topsoil in support of more fieldwork.

Corrientes and southeastern sections of Chaco and Formosa saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.83 to 1.97 inches with locally greater amounts near the Paraguay border for the seven-day period ending this morning. Pockets in southern Buenos Aires also received up to 0.35 inch of rain. The remaining production areas in Argentina were dry.

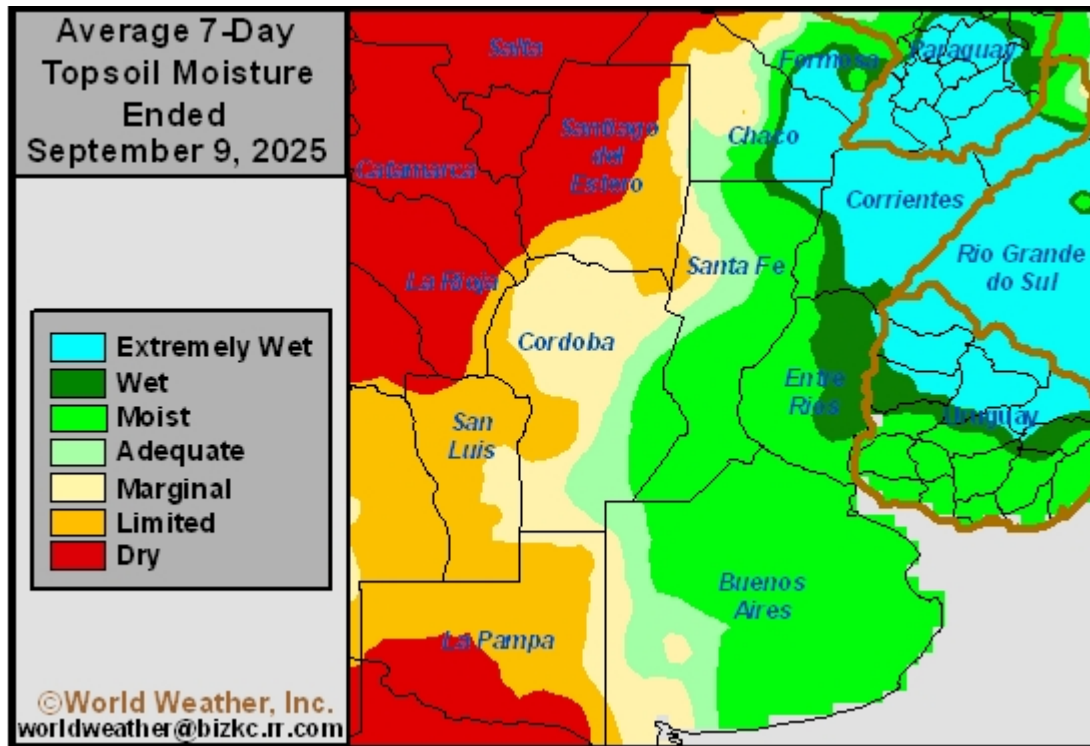


Santiago del Estero continues to have a shortage of moisture despite some rain in the south late in August and early this month. Cordoba, San Luis, and La Pampa have adequate or marginally adequate amounts of moisture, though pockets have a shortage of moisture in the topsoil. The remaining production areas in Argentina have adequate amounts of moisture.

As of September 4, corn harvesting was 97% finished. Significant progress was likely made in the past week due to the lack of rain. Long-term production potentials are

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relatively favorable due to timely rain over the winter. However, western Argentina is starting to dry down a little too much and would welcome a boost in rain.



Argentina will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall during the coming week. The main production areas will remain dry today and Friday. Light rain will evolve for a few pockets of Buenos Aires Saturday while most other locations remain dry. Scattered showers will evolve Sunday and Monday as a disturbance passes over the region. A few light showers will also be possible in western and southern sections of crop country Wednesday. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch with local amounts over 1.00 inch in much of crop country. Rain potentials will increase slightly for much of Argentina September 19-25, though most locations will not receive abundant amounts of precipitation.

Any corn harvesting that is not yet complete will advance with few disruptions during the next few days. The periods of rain will help maintain a good outlook for the winter wheat and barley as well. Portions of Cordoba and neighboring locations would still benefit from increased rainfall late this month and early October to support ideal long-term production potentials.

Planting of sunseed will advance swiftly around periods of rain in coming weeks. Early season corn planting usually begins in late September and is more aggressively planted in October and early November. Soybeans are not usually planted until November and the early corn planting should be done before soybean planting begins. After soybeans are planted, the bulk of corn and sorghum will be put into the ground. Today's soil moisture and that which should still be present in late September should be supportive of aggressive planting and quick emergence and establishment.

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