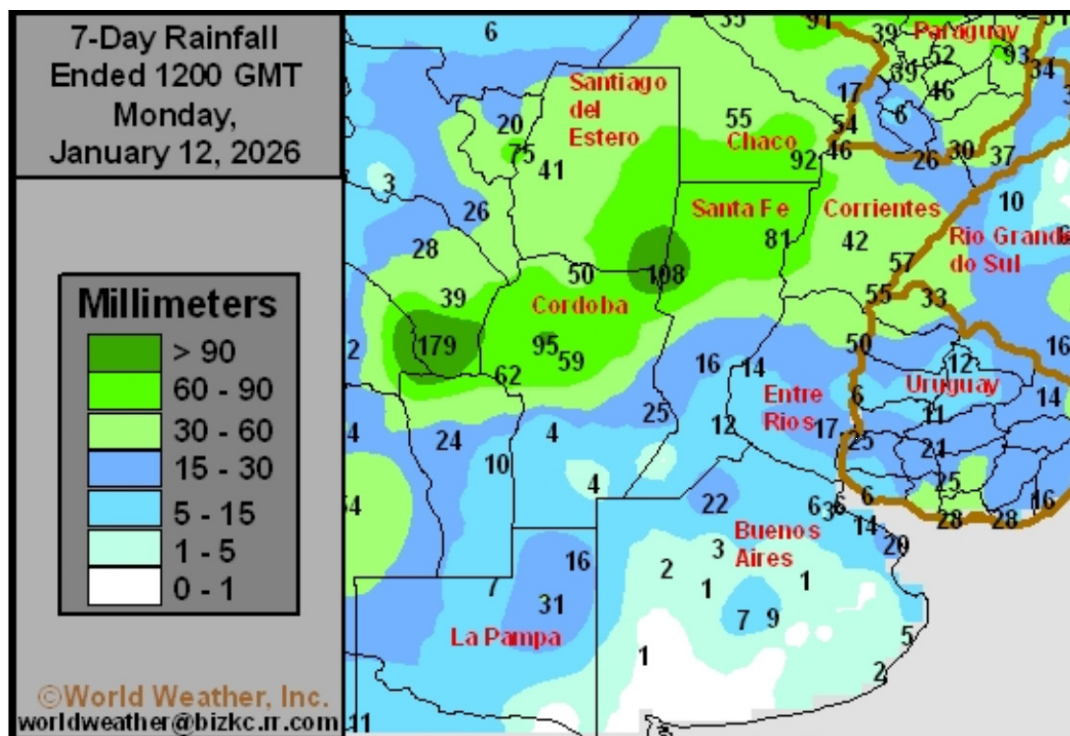


Southern Argentina Will Continue To Dry Down This Week

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 12 (World Weather Inc.) – *The northern half of Argentina's production region saw several waves of rain during the past week. Southern Argentina also received some rain, though many areas failed to get enough rain to counter evaporation and are becoming too dry to support long-term production potentials. Southern Argentina will remain drier than usual this week and will continue to dry down.* The lack of moisture is beginning to impact development rates and production potentials are beginning to decline and if the dryness lasts much longer some permanent losses may result. There is still time for crop improvements to benefit total production, but rain must fall soon. Central and northern Argentina will see a good mix of rain and sunshine this week. Crop conditions will remain relatively favorable.

Rainfall varied significantly across Argentina during the past week. Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Formosa, the Corrientes, northern fringes of Entre Rios, and the northern halves of Cordoba and Santa Fe received 1.00 to 4.25 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other areas in Entre Rios, Santa Fe, and Cordoba into La Pampa, San Luis, and northern fringes of Buenos Aires received 0.24 to 1.22 inches of rain with drier pockets. The remainder of Buenos Aires received trace amounts to 0.35 inch of rain.

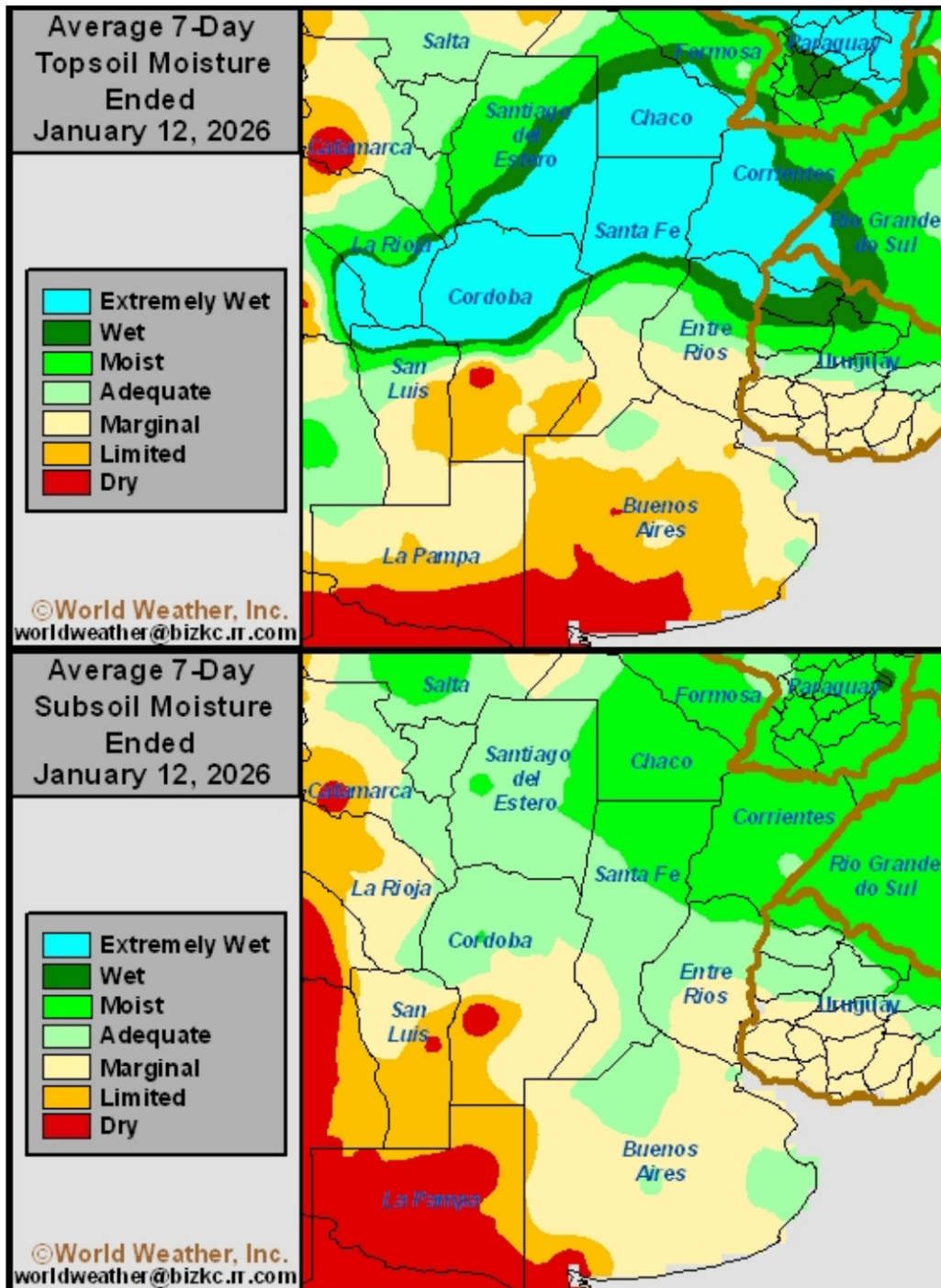


Soil moisture is adequate to excessive in the northern half of Argentina's crop country due to the waves of rain during the past week. Areas farther south have marginally adequate to very short soil moisture.

Planting is winding down in much of Argentina. As of January 8, sorghum planting was 70% complete, down from 81% this time last year. Planting over the other coarse

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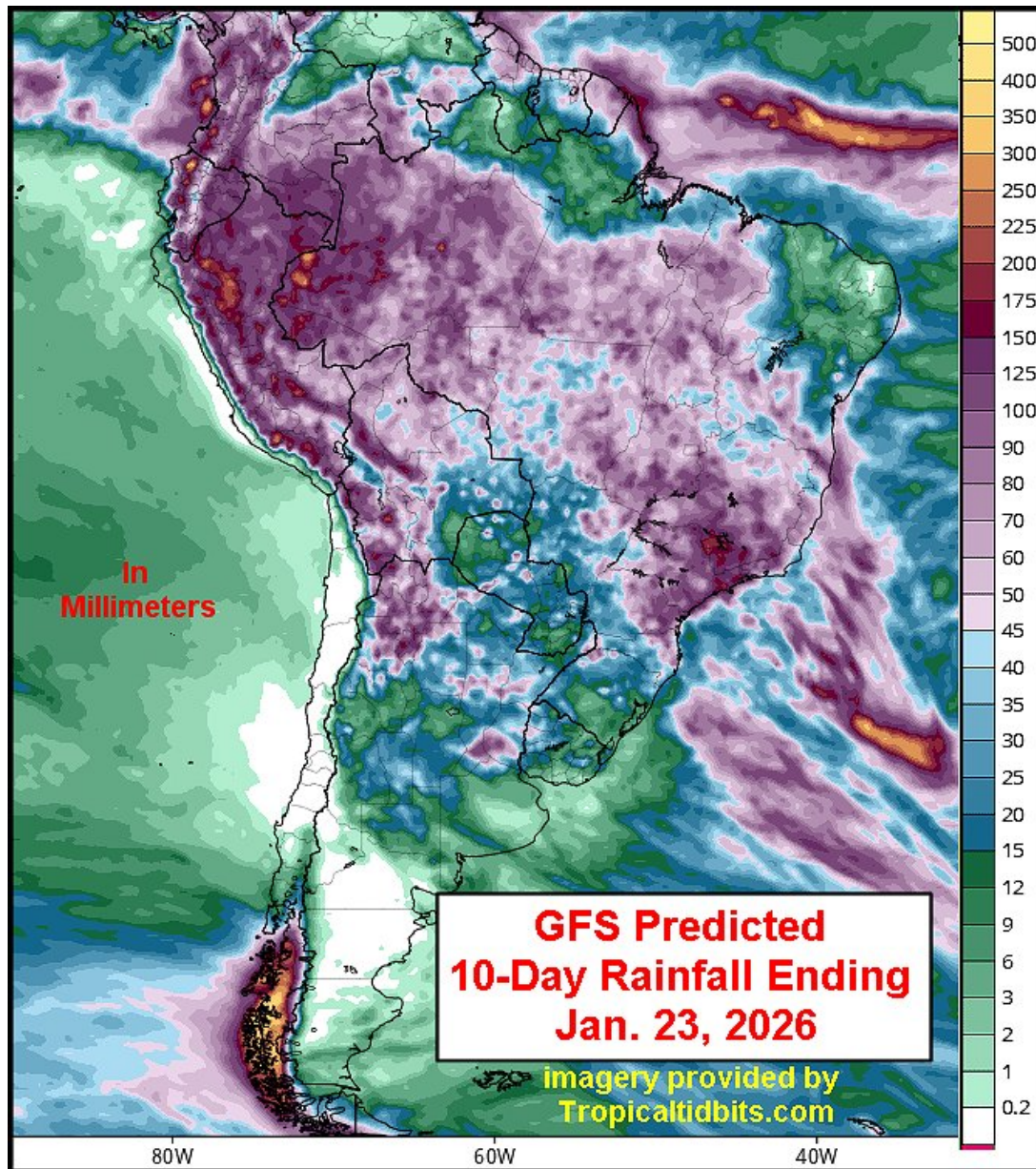
grains, oilseeds, and cotton was over 90% finished. Winter wheat and barley harvesting was generally finished as well.



Dryness is a growing concern in the southern part of Argentina's Pampas farming region. Many areas in Buenos Aires and neighboring locations are too dry to support ideal establishment for the recently planted crops and long-term production potentials. Significant rain is needed to completely fix the moisture deficits and support better long-term development. The northern half of Argentina otherwise has ample moisture to

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support aggressive growth of soybeans, corn, and other coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton produced this time of year.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will continue to vary across Argentina this week. Light rain will initially be scattered across portions of southern and central Argentina today and Tuesday. A band of rain will shift from central into northern Argentina Wednesday through Friday. Scattered showers will persist in central and northern Argentina over the weekend. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches from Formosa, Chaco, Santiago del Estero, and Corrientes into Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios. Buenos Aires

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and La Pampa will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. Alternating periods of rain and sunshine are slated for much of Argentina January 20-26.

The temperature profile will trend near to above normal in Argentina this week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit most days with pockets in southern Argentina only warming to the 70s later this week and weekend. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in southern Argentina cooling to the 50s late this week and weekend. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist January 20-26.

Buenos Aires and neighboring areas in La Pampa, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios will continue to dry down this week. These areas will remain too dry for ideal growth and development rates may be low. The need for timely rain will remain high late this month and early February to avoid significant production impacts. Areas farther north will have enough moisture to maintain relatively favorable development.

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