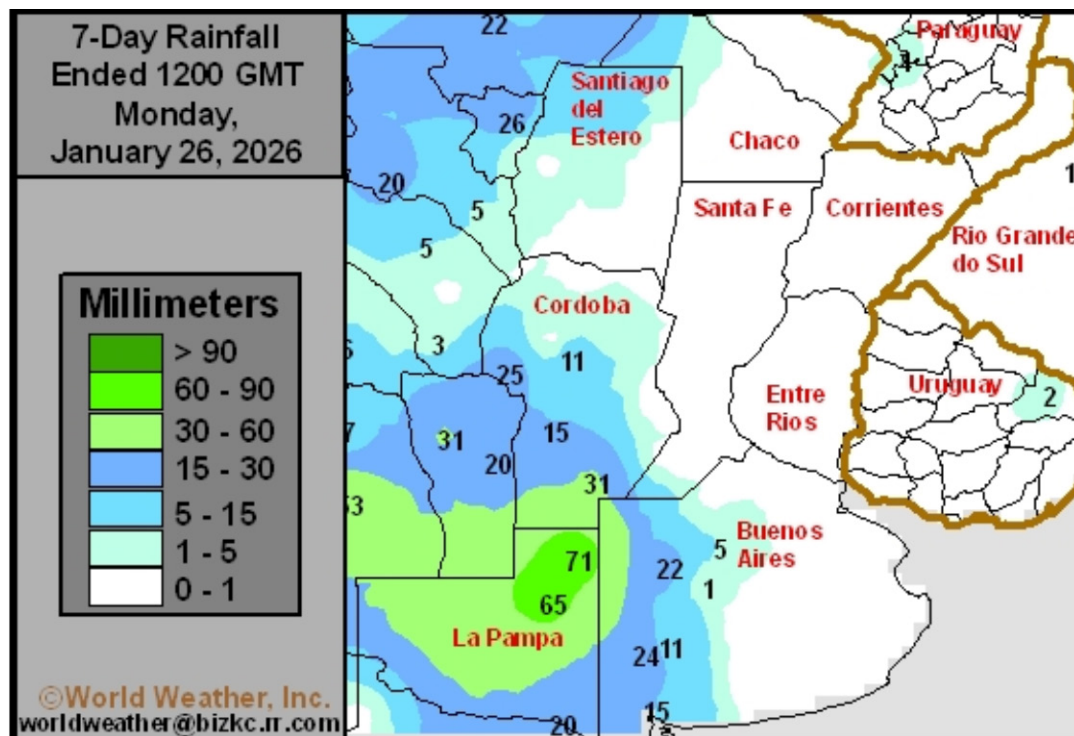


Argentina Will Continue To Struggle With Warm, Dry Weather

By Andrew Owen

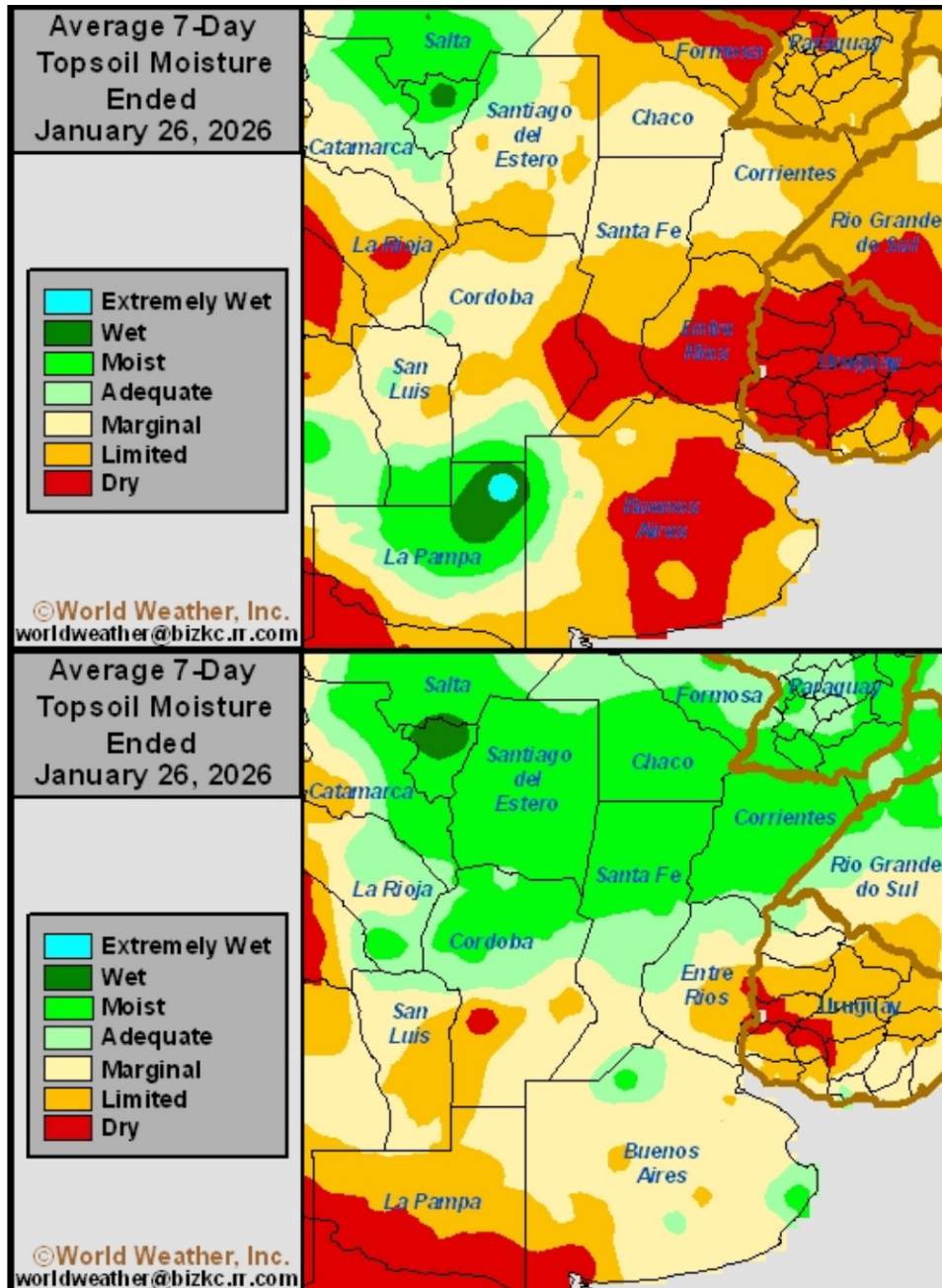
Kansas City, January 26 (World Weather Inc.) – Argentina’s weather was influenced by a strong high-pressure ridge during the past week. While disturbances tracking over the ridge brought rain to La Pampa, western Buenos Aires, and portions of Cordoba and San Luis, other production areas in Argentina were dry or mostly dry. The moisture profile is highly variable with many areas in the Pampas farming region already dry or critically dry. A large section of crop country will remain drier and warmer than usual this week as well, which will continue to promote aggressive drying. The only areas that will receive timely rain will be the westernmost production areas in Cordoba, Santiago del Estero, San Luis, and La Pampa. The environment will deteriorate for coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton in a large section of Argentina outside the western production areas. Production potentials may be reduced, most notably in the driest areas of Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, and Santa Fe.

La Pampa received the most significant rain in Argentina during the past week with totals ranging from 2.56 to 2.80 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning with most of that occurring during the weekend. San Luis, western fringes of Buenos Aires, and portions of southern, central, and western Cordoba received 0.43 to 1.22 inches of rain. Temperatures were still warmer than usual at times during the past week with highest readings in the 90s Fahrenheit. These areas have adequate or marginally adequate moisture due to the recent rainfall, though several pockets still have a shortage of moisture in the subsoil due to a lack of rain earlier in the month.



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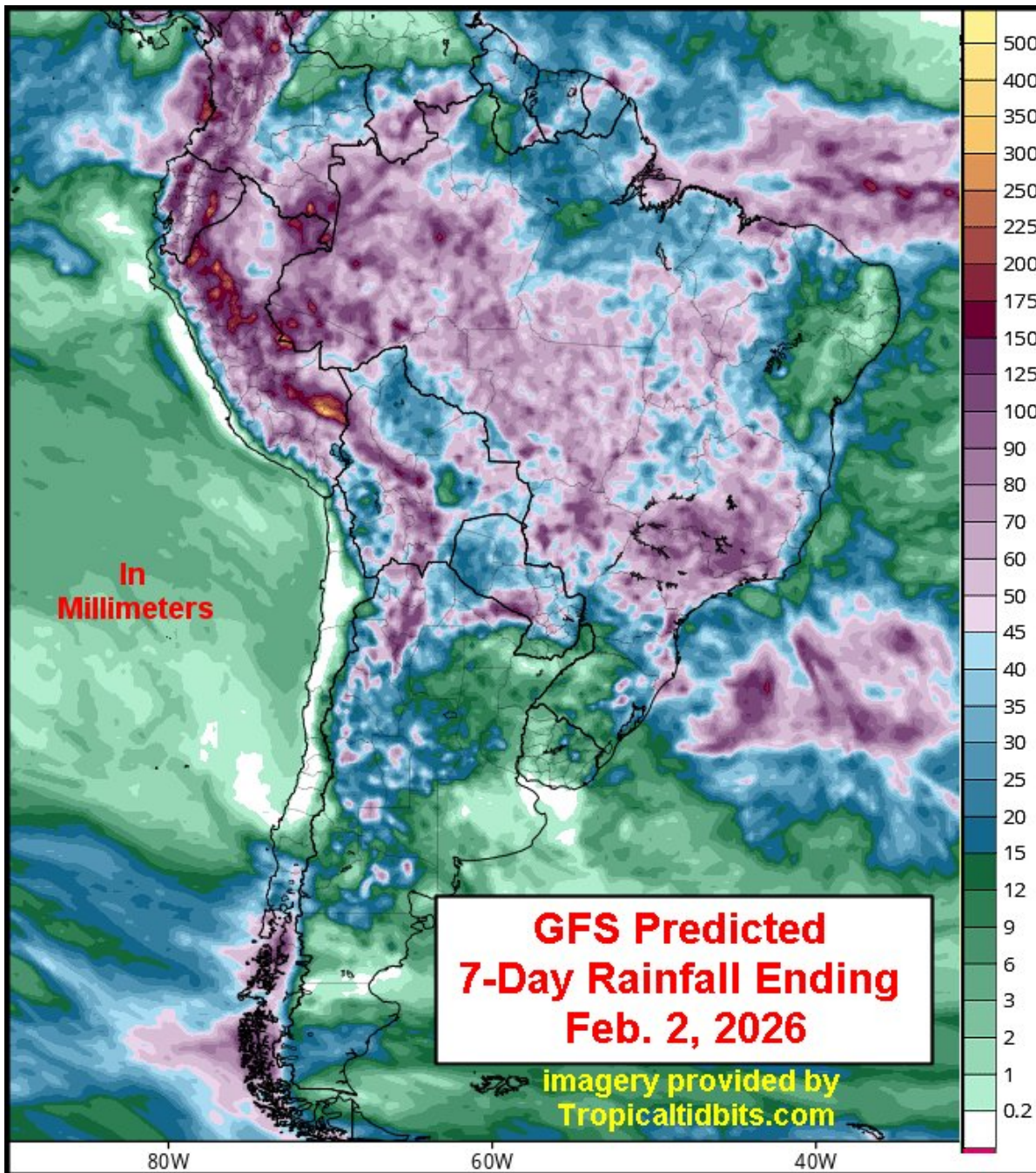
The remaining production areas in Argentina received little to no rain. With daytime temperatures often reaching well into the 90s, aggressive drying was noted. Many areas in Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, Santa Fe, and Cordoba have short to very short topsoil moisture and marginally adequate to short subsoil moisture. Although northern Argentina has short or marginally adequate topsoil moisture, subsoil moisture remains at adequate levels due to significant rainfall earlier this month.



Dryness is a growing concern across the main production areas in Argentina. Portions of the Pampas farming region have become too dry for favorable development while the rain in La Pampa and neighboring areas was welcome; though too light to support

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ideal long-term production potentials. Concern over production potentials will increase if rainfall remains spotty and below normal in coming weeks.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Rainfall will be highly variable across Argentina this week. A slow-moving disturbance will initially generate scattered showers for several locations today into Wednesday. Light rain will continue for portions of northern Argentina Thursday and Friday. Another disturbance will generate erratic rainfall over the weekend. Moisture totals

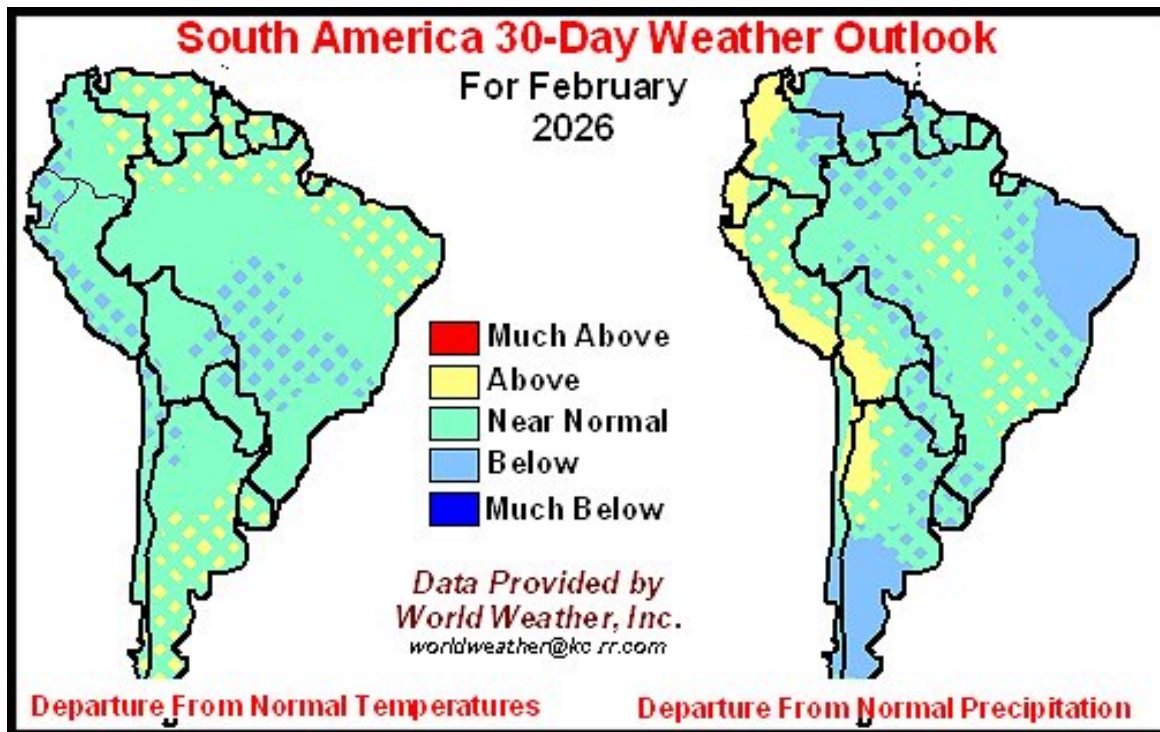
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by next Monday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches in Cordoba, Santiago del Estero, San Luis, and La Pampa with pockets that only receive up to 0.25 inch of rain. Other production areas will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain and locally greater amounts in Santa Fe. Temperatures will remain warm with daytime highs often reaching the upper 80s and 90s. Pockets in northern Argentina could also warm above 100 degrees today.

Alternating periods of rain and sunshine are slated for much of Argentina

February 3-9. Rain potentials will generally be greater compared to the first week of the outlook, but not enough to completely reverse the recent drying trend. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist.

The periods of spotty rain will generally be too light to fix the drying trend in much of Argentina this week. Several locations will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation, especially with the warm daytime temperatures. Coarse grain, oilseed, and cotton development conditions will be uneven and often poor, especially for the driest areas in Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, and Santa Fe. The slight boost in rain during the second week of the outlook will be welcome, but likely too light to completely fix the dryness. Concern over the potential for lower production potentials will increase in coming weeks if a significant change in weather does not occur soon.



Some of the dryness expected in eastern and southern Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Rio Grande do Sul during the next ten days to two weeks may end up being the general theme for weather during February. Warm biased temperatures and near to below normal precipitation is expected in those areas with weather a little wetter in northwest and west-central parts of the nation.

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