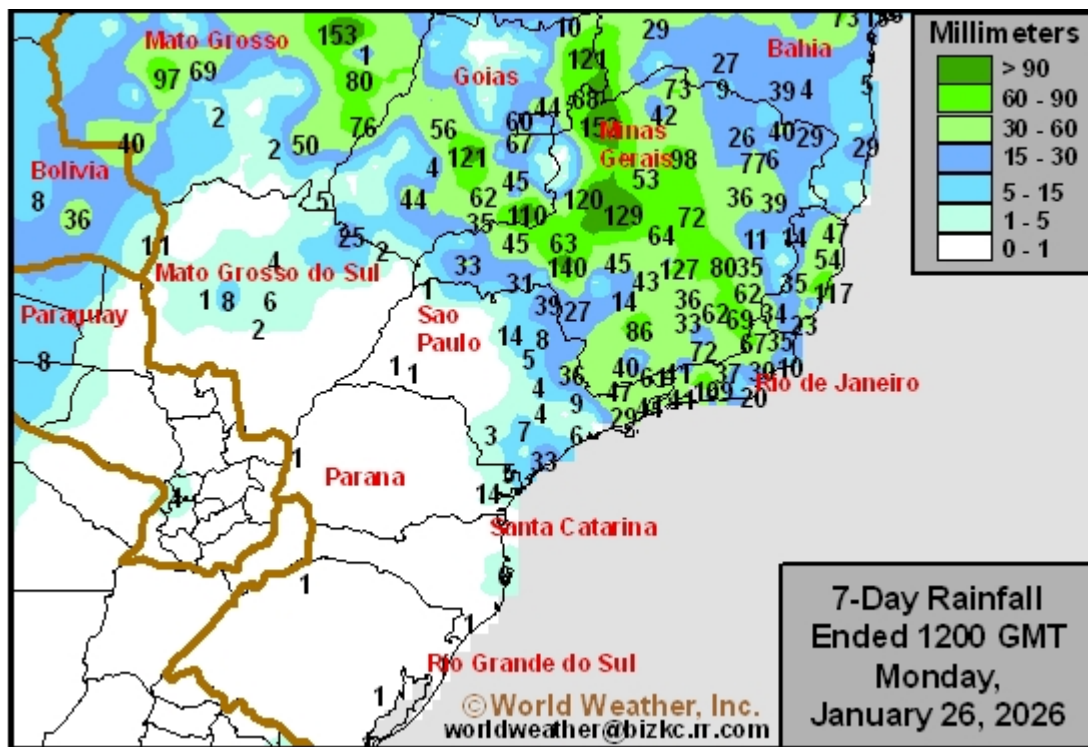


Brazil Will See Expansion Of Rain; More Needed In South

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 27 (World Weather Inc.) – *Far Southern Brazil and areas north into portions of Mato Grosso do Sul and Sao Paulo were either dry or received limited rain during the past week. Aggressive drying was noted with many areas already short to very short of moisture in the topsoil.* Waves of precipitation will gradually return to most locations in the coming days and should restore some of the moisture that was recently lost to evaporation. *However, many areas in Rio Grande do Sul, western sections of Santa Catarina and Parana, and southern Mato Grosso do Sul will not receive enough rain to completely fix the moisture deficits. The need for timely rain will be high into mid-February.* Other production areas in center-west, center-south, and northeastern Brazil saw several waves of rain during the past week. With more precipitation on the way this week, conditions for the coarse grains and oilseeds will remain favorable. Early-season Safrinha corn planting will advance around the rain as well.

Outside a few locations, **southern Brazil** was mostly dry during the past week. Portions of eastern and southern Sao Paulo and pockets in central and northeastern Mato Grosso do Sul received 0.24 to 1.54 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning while most other areas in Sao Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul were dry. Temperatures were warm for these locations with highest readings in the 80s and lower 90s Fahrenheit. Pockets in Mato Grosso do Sul also warmed to the upper 90s.



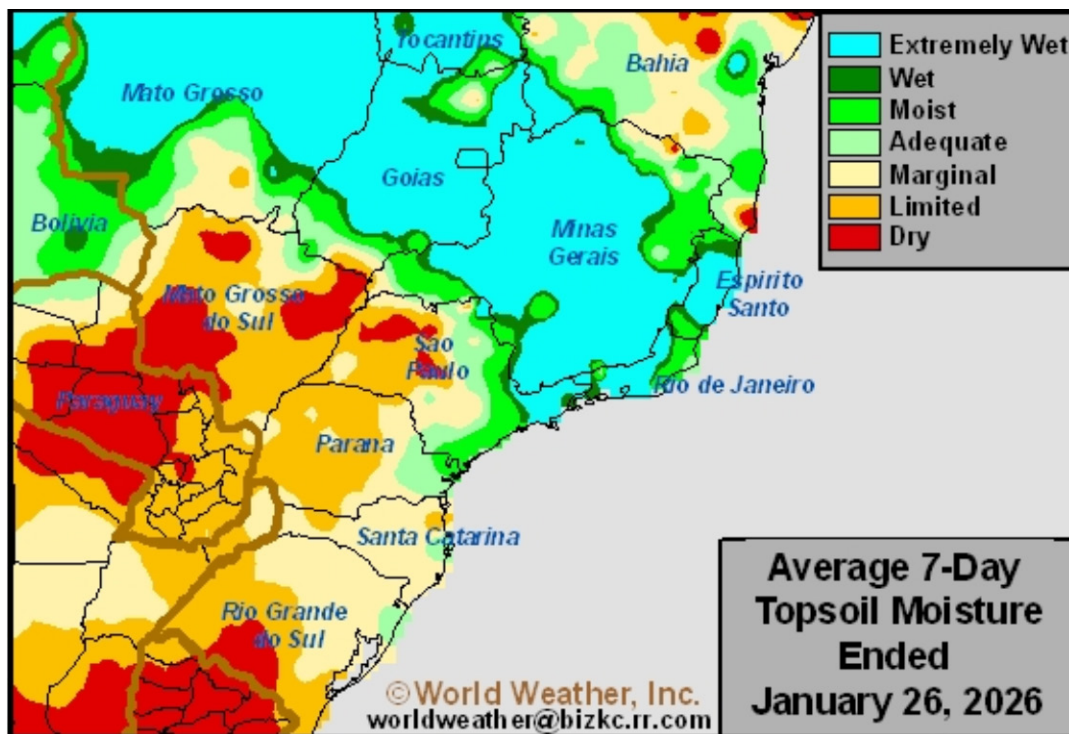
The lack of rain and warm daytime temperatures in southern Brazil promoted aggressive drying for most locations. Topsoil moisture dropped to the short and very short levels. Subsoil moisture remained at a sufficient level to support crop development,

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although there was a decline in moisture deep in the ground that also must be closely monitored.

In the meantime, Mato Grosso and Goiás into Minas Gerais, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, and Espírito Santo saw several waves of rain during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.50 to 3.50 inches with local amounts up to 6.00 inches in Minas Gerais and Goiás. Temperatures were milder, though these areas still warmed to the 80s and lower 90s at times. There were a few days in which high temperatures were confined to the upper 60s and 70s during the rainiest conditions. Waves of rain helped bolster or keep soil moisture at adequate to excessive levels.

Early-season harvesting is underway for portions of Brazil. As of January 17, soybean harvesting was 2.3% while first-season corn harvesting was 4.4% finished according to CONAB. These numbers are slightly behind the previous five-year average. Dry bean harvesting was 22.5% complete while only 0.7% of the rice had been harvested. The lack of rain and warm daytime temperatures supported favorable conditions as more crops mature and get ready for the harvest in southern Brazil and much of Sao Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul. However, these areas are in need of timely rain for the later-planted crops that are still in the development stages.

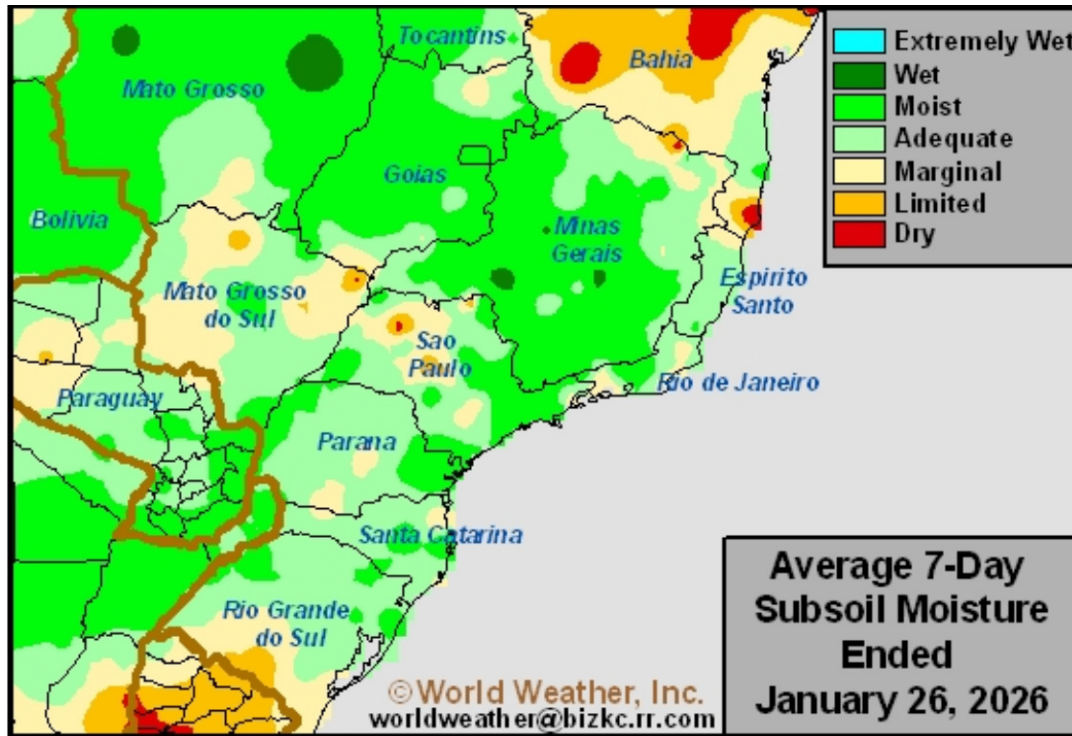


Safrinha corn planting was also underway in a few pockets earlier this month. As of January 17, planting was 0.8% finished, down slightly from 2.5% for the previous five-year average. Much of the planting had occurred in Paraná and Mato Grosso. Planting will gradually expand in the coming weeks as more of the soybeans and first-season corn are harvested.

After a brief period of drier weather today, rain will gradually reach into portions of far southern Brazil, São Paulo, and Mato Grosso for the remainder of the week. Some of

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the most widespread and significant rain will occur Thursday into Saturday. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches in Sao Paulo, northern and central Mato Grosso do Sul, eastern sections of Parana and Santa Catarina, and northeastern Rio Grande do Sul. Other locations in southern Brazil into southern Mato Grosso do Sul will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. Daytime highs for these locations will again be in the 80s and lower 90s with pockets only warming to the 70s during periods of rain.



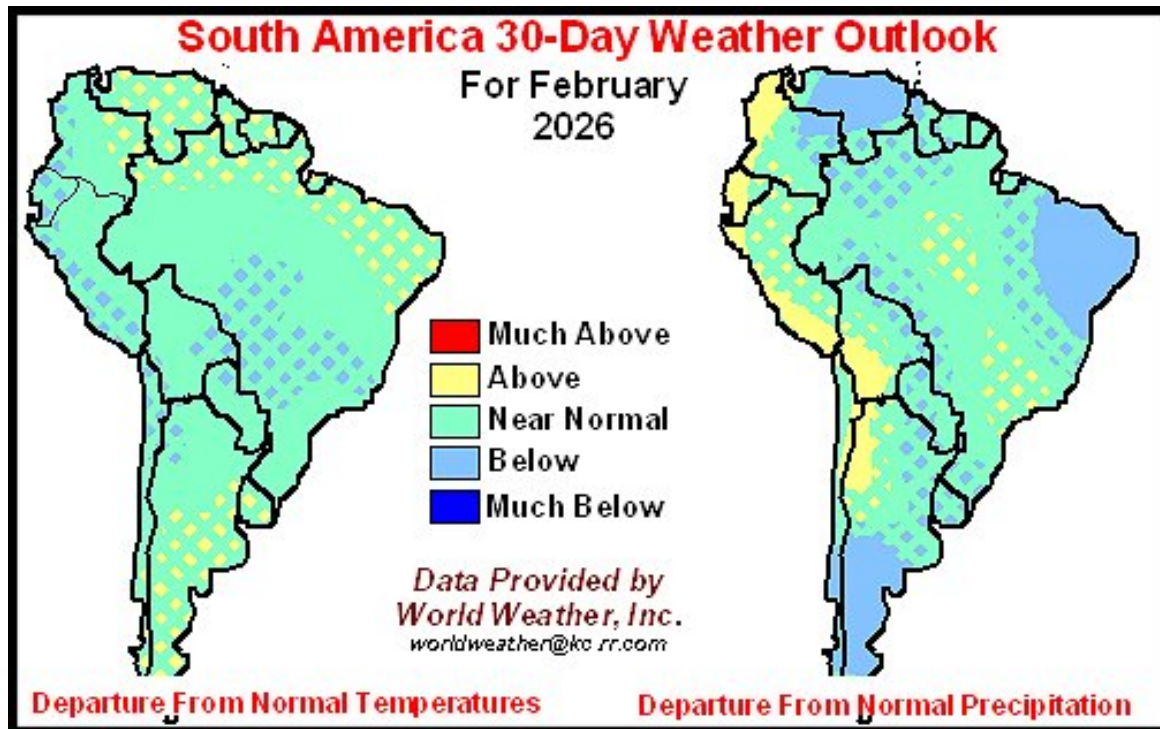
Mato Grosso and Goiás into Minas Gerais, southern Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, and Espírito Santo will continue to receive rain on a frequent basis this week. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 1.00 to 3.50 inches with local amounts of 5.00 inches or slightly more in Goiás and Minas Gerais. Temperatures will be near normal with daytime highs in the upper 70s and 80s. Pockets will also warm to the lower 90s during drier periods.

Western sections of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Parana into southern Mato Grosso do Sul *will not receive enough rain to fix the moisture deficits this week. Maturation and harvesting of the early-planted crops will advance swiftly for these locations. The environment may otherwise deteriorate for the later-planted crops and early-planted safrinha corn in Parana. There is potential for more widespread rain during the February 3 – 9 period, though not enough rain will occur to reverse the drying trend. The need for more significant rain will increase later in February as more of the safrinha corn is planted.* Other locations in Brazil will have ample moisture to support aggressive growth for most crops. Harvesting and general fieldwork will advance around the rain as well.

The longer range outlook for February tends to support a similar weather pattern with lighter and more sporadic rain than usual in the far south of Brazil while center west and center south crop areas get more routine rainfall to maintain moisture abundance.

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Temperatures will continue to be seasonable and the far northeast of Brazil will remain drier than usual.



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