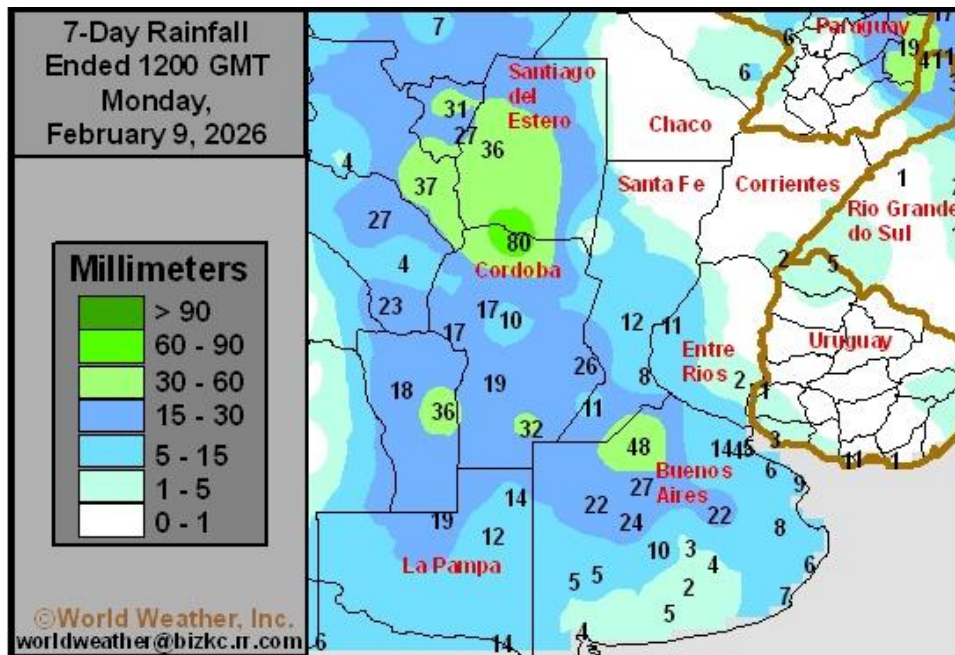


Argentina Crop Conditions Uneven Due To Erratic Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 9 (World Weather Inc.) – **The moisture profile remains highly variable across Argentina. Precipitation has been very sporadic in recent weeks with many areas in the north, east, and south drying down significantly. Development has likely become uneven or poor in the driest locations of Santa Fe, Entre Rios, Chaco, Buenos Aires, and neighboring locations.** There is still time for better rain to improve development conditions. **However, concerns will prevail for lower yields in several locations due to the uneven distribution of rain.** Argentina will have several opportunities for rain this week. **Rainfall will be enough to improve soil moisture in some of the driest fields, though not enough rain will fall to completely fix the moisture deficits. Coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton will still react favorably to the rain and short-term development conditions will improve marginally. Additional rain will still be needed later this month to further improve late-season development.**

Rainfall varied significantly across Argentina's main production areas during the past week. Santiago del Estero, Cordoba, and San Luis into northwestern and portions of central Buenos Aires received 0.39 to 1.42 inches of rain with a local amount of 3.15 inches in northern Cordoba for the seven-day period ending this morning. One location in northwestern Buenos Aires also received 1.89 inches of rain. La Pampa, the southern half of Santa Fe, western fringes of Entre Rios, and other locations in Buenos Aires received 0.20-0.87 inch of rain. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere.

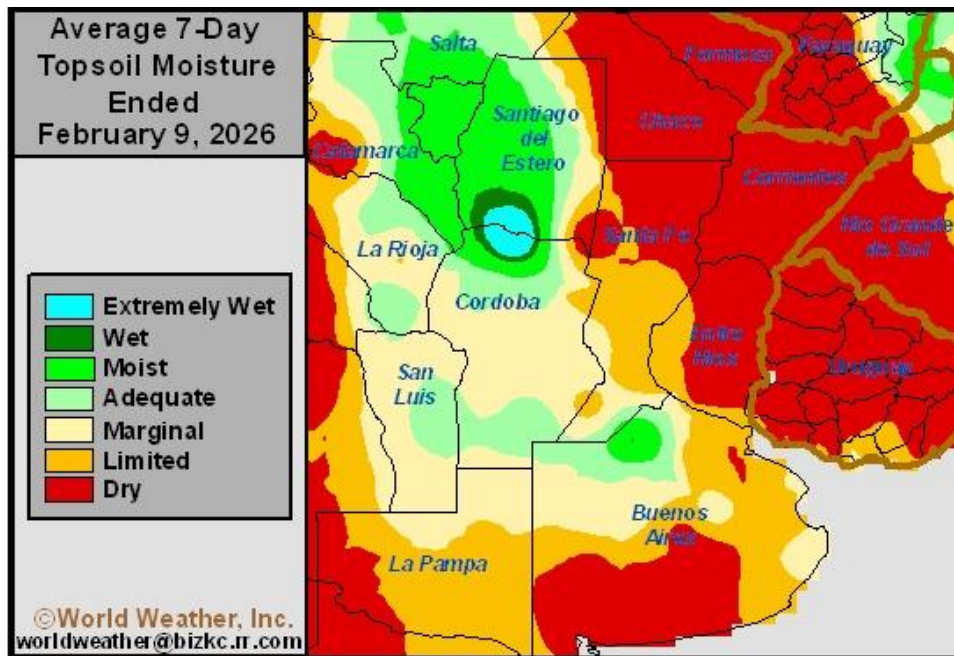


Soil moisture is highly variable across Argentina. While southern Cordoba, San Luis, northern La Pampa, northern Buenos Aires, and southern fringes of Santa Fe received enough rain to bring topsoil moisture to adequate or marginally adequate levels, subsoil moisture remains short or marginally adequate. Santiago del Estero and northern Cordoba

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have adequate moisture both at topsoil and subsoil levels. Santa Fe, Chaco, Formosa, and Corrientes have a critical shortage of topsoil moisture while subsoil moisture remains adequate or marginally adequate. Entre Rios and other locations in Buenos Aires have short to critically short soil moisture at both topsoil and subsoil levels.

The uneven distribution in rain combined with periods of warmer than normal weather impacted coarse grain, oilseed, and cotton development conditions in recent weeks. While longer-rooted crops in northern Argentina had some moisture in the subsoil to support relatively good development, shorter-rooted crops likely saw development rates slow. Recent rainfall was welcome where it fell in central and southern Argentina, though conditions were far from ideal. While there is still time for better rainfall to improve late-season growth, production potentials have already been reduced in some of the driest locations.



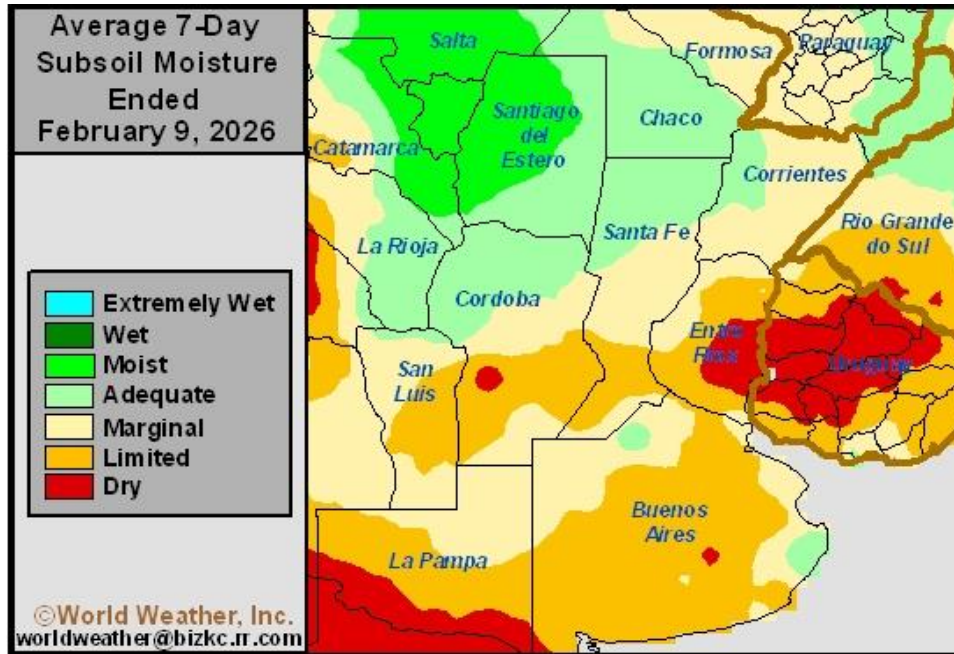
Argentina's main production areas will see a mix of rain and sunshine this week. The first disturbance will initially generate rain in northern and central Argentina today and early Tuesday. Another disturbance will bring rain from south to north later Tuesday and Wednesday. Scattered showers will evolve in the northern half of crop country Thursday and Friday before expanding farther south over the weekend. Rainfall will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches by next Monday morning with a few exceptions. Pockets in Corrientes, northern Santa Fe, and neighboring areas will receive 4.00 inches or slightly more of rain. Many areas in Buenos Aires and southern Entre Rios will also only receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of moisture. The main production areas will again see a good mix of rain and sunshine February 17 – 23.

The temperature profile will again trend near to above normal this week across Argentina. Daytime highs will be in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit for the northern half of crop country through Thursday while areas farther south warm to the 70s and 80s. Highs Friday into early next week will settle to the 80s and lower 90s with pockets only warming to the 70s. Nighttime lows will be in the 60s and 70s in the northern half of crop country. Lows in

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the south will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in Buenos Aires cooling to the 40s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will prevail February 17 – 23.

Rainfall will be welcome where it occurs this week. Buenos Aires and southern Entre Rios will not receive enough rain to significantly improve the moisture profile and development conditions will remain uneven or poor. Other locations will receive enough rain to see development conditions improve or remain relatively favorable. Yield potentials may increase marginally as a result of the increased rain.



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