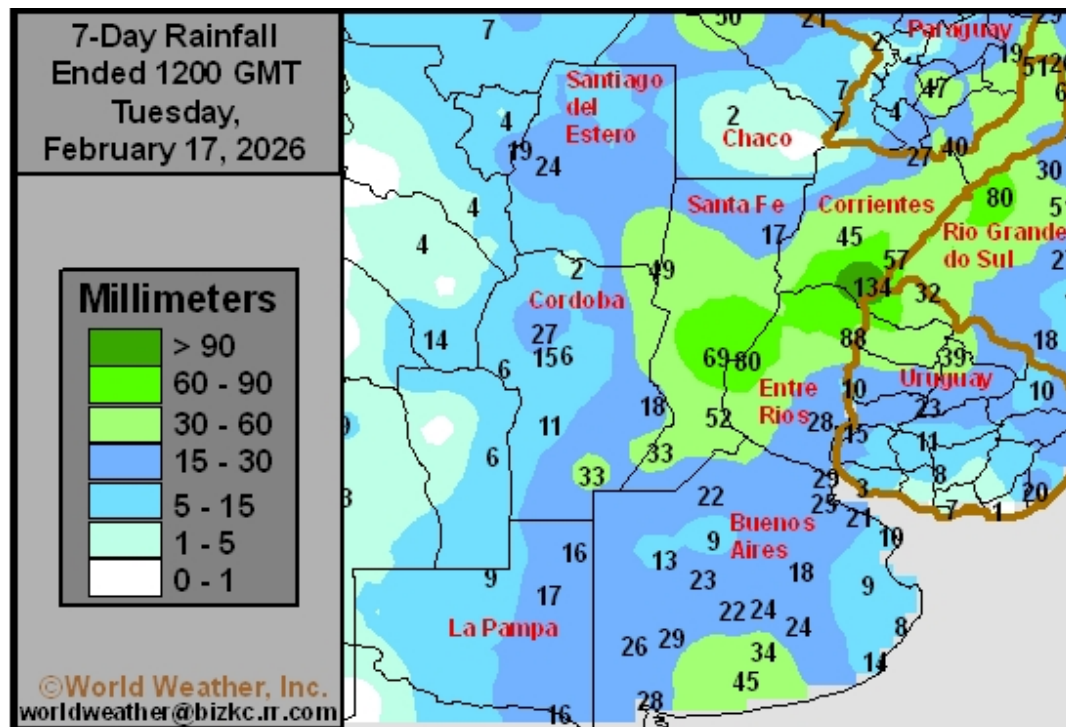


Argentina To See More Rain After Recent Precipitation

By Andrew Owen

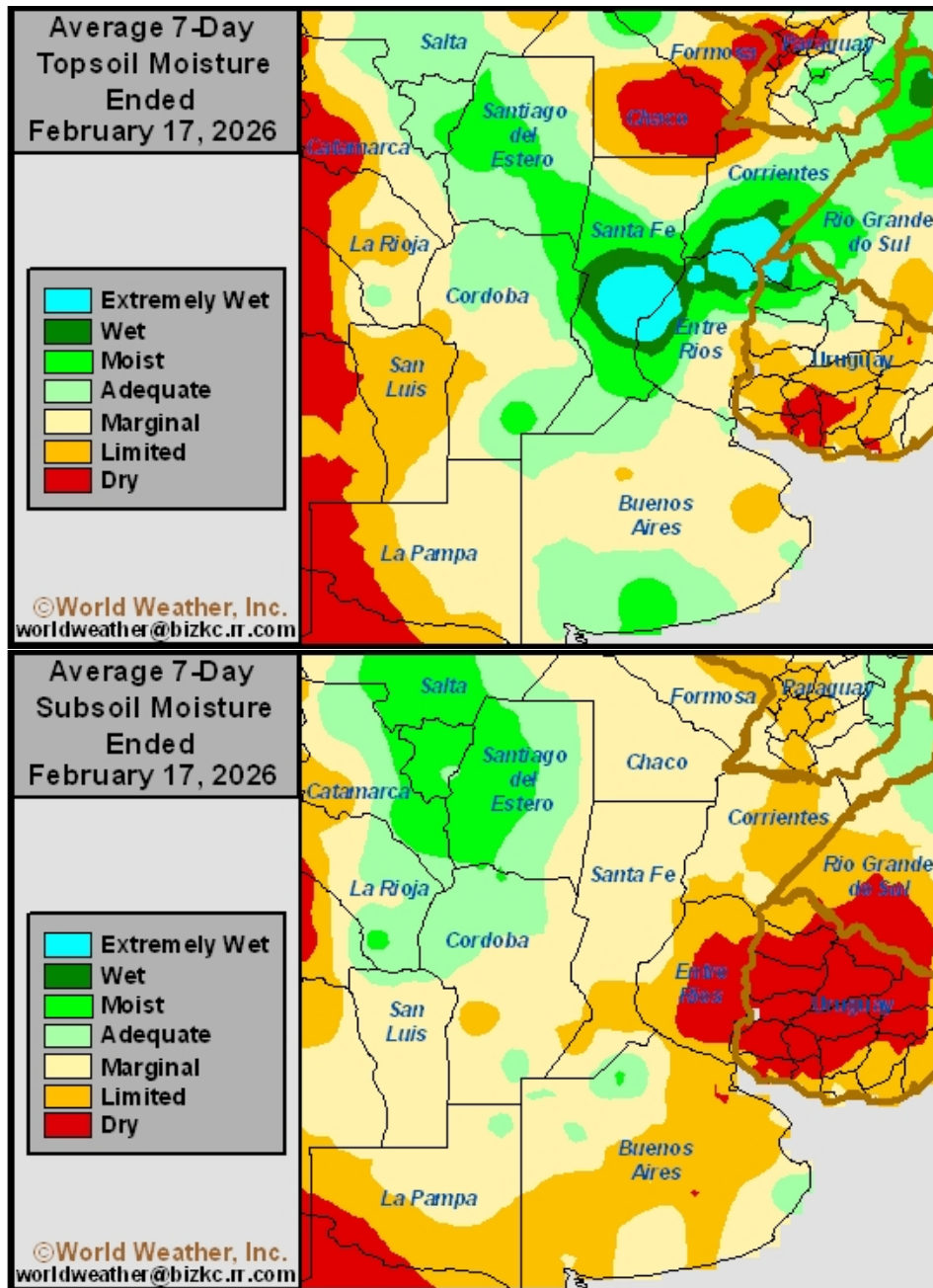
Kansas City, February 17 (World Weather Inc.) – Rainfall in Argentina earlier in the growing season was unevenly distributed, leaving many fields in the Pampas farming region with low soil moisture in January and earlier this month. Although development conditions were uneven at times, much-needed rain was noted in the main production areas during the past week. Several coarse grains and oilseeds reacted favorably to the rain and development conditions likely improved for some of the later-planted crops. The earliest-planted crops may be too far along to benefit much from the recent rain. Northern and central Argentina will see additional waves of rain during the coming week that may further improve development conditions for the later-planted crops. Buenos Aires will otherwise miss out on much of the rain. The region will have some moisture to support relatively good late-season growth for at least the next few days before drying down again later this month.

Rain was often scattered across the main production areas in Argentina during the past week. Central and southern Santa Fe into Entre Rios and much of Corrientes outside the northwest corner received 1.10 to 3.15 inches of rain with locally greater amounts just outside the main production areas for the seven-day period ending this morning. Rainfall elsewhere ranged from 0.43 to 1.34 inches with drier pockets in San Luis and western Cordoba.



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Argentina still have a shortage of moisture in the subsoil while areas farther west and north have adequate to marginally adequate subsoil moisture.

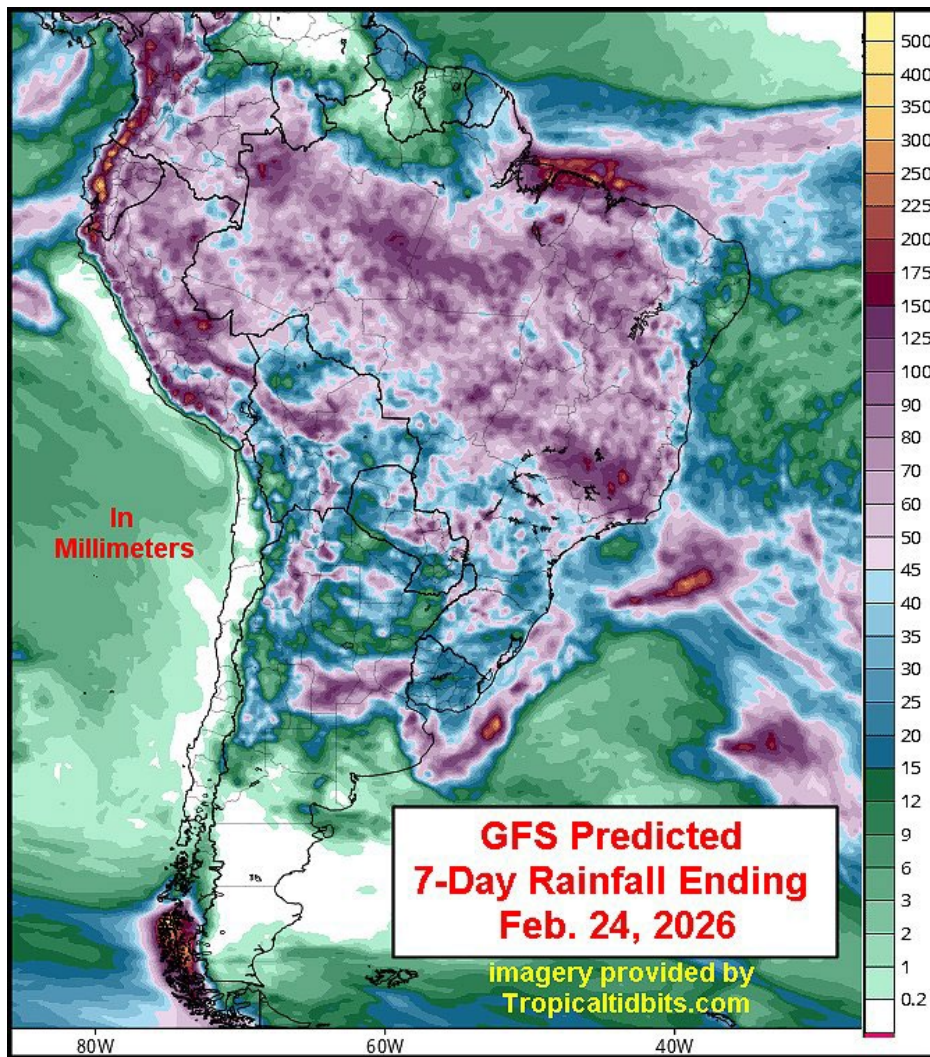


Coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops reacted favorably to rainfall during the past week in much of Argentina's main production areas. Several areas in southern and eastern Argentina struggled with dryness earlier in the growing season and concerns were increasing for uneven growth, moisture stress and a potential decline in yield for some areas. Precipitation during the past week was welcome for improving late-season crop development. There is still a need for more rain in the near future to support crops reproducing or about to reproduce.

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WEATHER OUTLOOK

Rainfall will vary across Argentina's crop region during the coming week. Disturbances will often bring rain and storms to parts of the country with some of the most significant rain occurring Wednesday and again Friday into Saturday. Cordoba, Santa Fe, Entre Rios, Corrientes, and San Luis will receive some of the most significant rain with totals ranging from 1.00 to 4.00 inches by next Tuesday morning. A few pockets in central and southern Santa Fe and immediate neighboring areas will also receive 6.00 inches or more of moisture. Santiago del Estero, Chaco, and Formosa will receive 0.75 to 2.50 inches of rain. Northern Buenos Aires and La Pampa will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain while areas farther south of Buenos either trend dry or do not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Argentina will likely see a decrease in rain potentials February 25 – March 3. Periods of spotty rain will still be possible, though much of crop country could see drier than usual conditions.



The temperature profile will trend near to above normal in Argentina during the coming week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit with a few exceptions.

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Portions of northern Argentina will warm above 100 degrees through Thursday. Several pockets in central and southern Argentina will also only warm to the 70s, most notably Wednesday and again over the weekend through early next week. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s in the southern half of crop country and the 60s and 70s farther to the north. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist February 25 – March 3.

Additional rain through early next week will help bolster soil moisture across northern and central Argentina. The environment will either improve or remain relatively favorable for the later-planted coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton. The precipitation may be too late for the earliest-planted crops that were negatively impacted by drier and warmer-than-normal weather earlier in the summer. Southern Argentina will again dry down in the coming week. Several locations will have residual moisture during the next few days that will support new growth. However, Buenos Aires will likely become too dry for ideal late-season growth later this month. Concerns for negative production impacts will again increase across Buenos Aires as the ground firms.

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