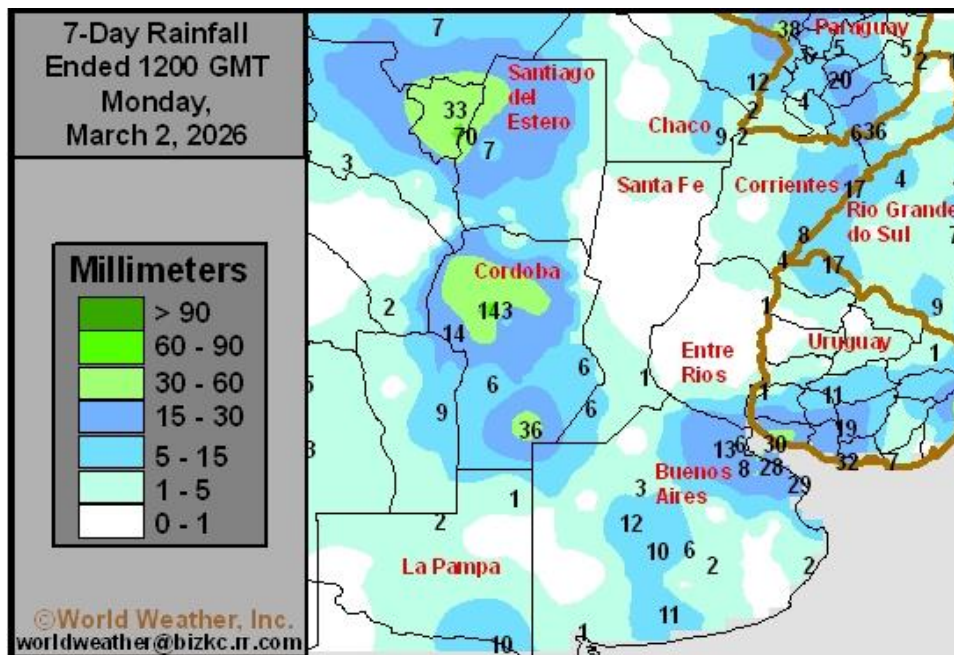


Argentina Rain Well-Timed For Soy; Additional Rain This Week

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 2 (World Weather Inc.) – Rainfall was limited in a large section of Argentina outside portions of Cordoba during the past week. **Aggressive drying was noted in the topsoil, though timely rain earlier in February helped improve development for the later-planted soybeans, corn, and other coarse grains and oilseeds. Precipitation in February helped limit significant production losses after a drier than normal environment in January. However, some of the earliest-planted crops likely saw production reduced due to the extended period of drier weather.** Alternating periods of rain and sunshine are slated for much of crop country this week. **Additional rain will continue to support relatively good late-season development, though the precipitation may be too late to improve conditions for the earliest-planted crops.**

Rainfall varied significantly across Argentina during the past week. Cordoba received 0.24 to 1.42 inches of rain with a local amount of 5.63 inches in the north for the seven-day period ending this morning. Several areas in Buenos Aires, Santiago del Estero, Chaco, and Formosa received 0.12 to 0.51 inch of rain. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere.

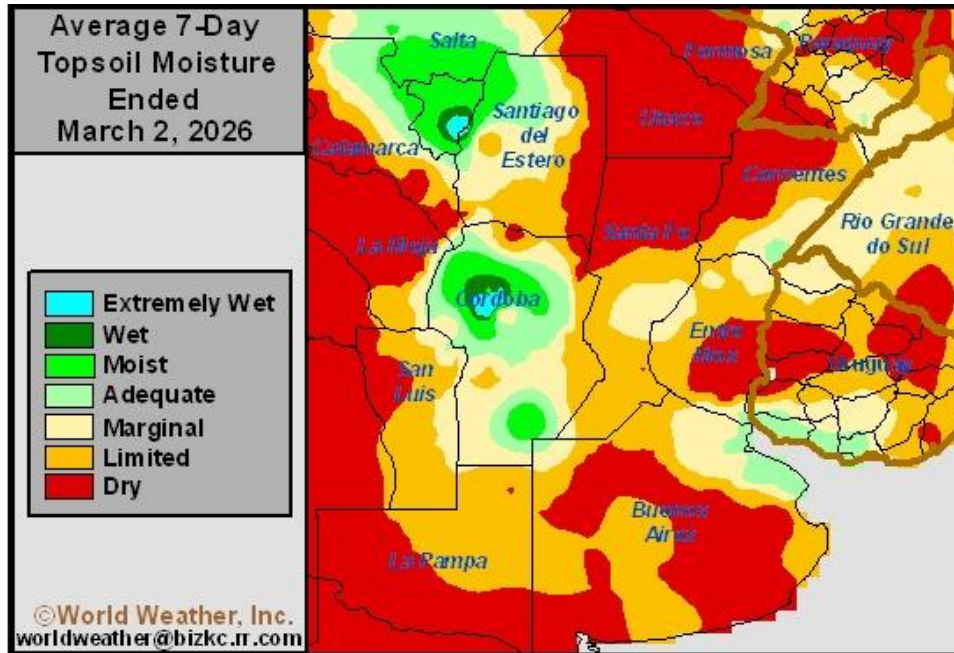


The moisture profile is highly variable across Argentina. Cordoba and neighboring areas in Santiago del Estero have adequate amounts of moisture due to rain in recent weeks. Other locations have short or marginally adequate topsoil moisture. Subsoil moisture is generally adequate, though many areas in northern Argentina and Buenos Aires also have short subsoil moisture.

Rainfall earlier in February and the most-recent seven-day period was well-timed for much of Argentina. The main production areas dried down significant in January and impacted development rates. Rainfall in the second half of February was beneficial for most

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crops, especially the later-planted soybeans, corn, and other coarse grains and oilseeds. The earliest-planted crops may have been too far along in the development stages to see significant improvements from the rain. Overall production potentials remain relatively good. The latest-planted crops would still welcome rain in the near future to ensure good late-season growth.

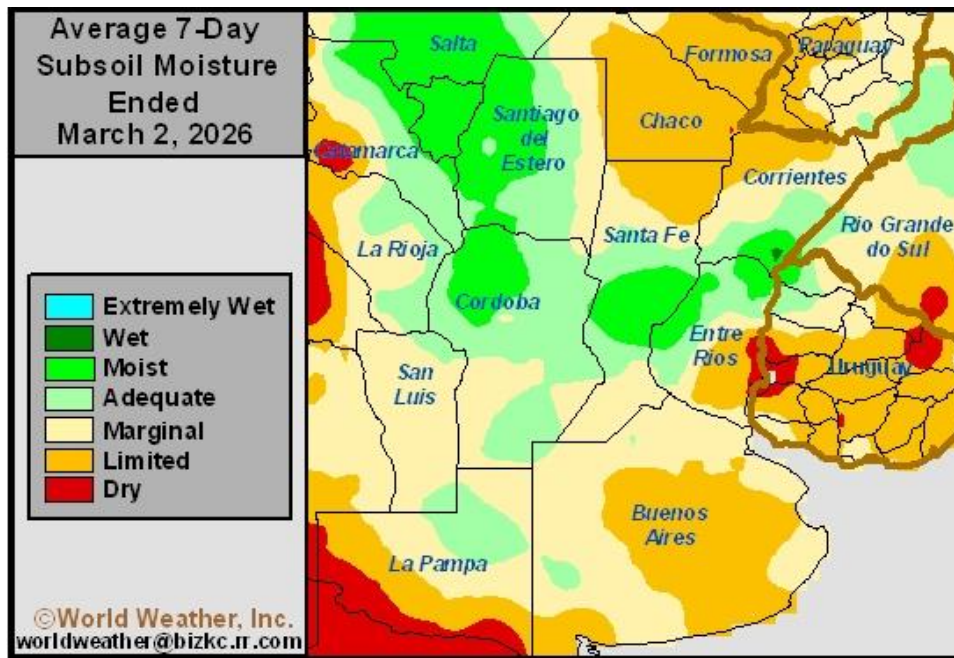


Argentina will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine this week. A frontal boundary will generate the first round of rain from south to north today into Tuesday. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will evolve late Wednesday into Friday as a disturbance slowly passes over the country. Outside a few isolated showers, drier weather will evolve over the weekend. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts of 3.00 inches or more in Cordoba and Santiago del Estero. Portions of Buenos Aires will also only receive 0.25 to 0.50 inch of rain. Alternating periods of rain and sunshine will prevail March 10 – 16.

Temperatures will trend near or slightly above normal for Argentina this week. Daytime highs will initially peak to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit today. Highs will drop to the 70s and 80s for the remainder of the week with portions of northern Argentina still warming to the 90s on a frequent basis. Pockets in southern Argentina will also only warm to the 60s Friday and this weekend. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the 40s in the southern half of Argentina. Northern Argentina will cool to the 60s and 70s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist March 10 – 16.

Additional rain through mid-March will help maintain a favorable environment for the later-planted coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops. The rain may be too late for the earliest-planted crops and minor production cuts are possible. Overall yield potentials will remain relatively good despite the dry weather in January. Maturation and early-season harvesting will likely advance swiftly around the rain.

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