

Weekly World Corn Weather

South America Crop Areas Improving

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, October 12 (World Weather, Inc.) – Soil moisture in Argentina is rated the best it has been so far this season and improvements are under way in portions of Brazil. For the areas in Brazil that have not seen significant rainfall so far will likely see it soon, but follow up rainfall will be very important in assuring continued favorable crop conditions. Weather in sorghum areas of Australia will also be improving over the coming week while superb conditions have been occurring in China, much of Europe and portions of the western Commonwealth of Independent States. Harvesting in the United States has also advanced well in this most recent week thanks to dry and warm conditions.

ARGENTINA

Rain was reported in most of Argentina at one time or another during the past week. Most of the precipitation varied widely from one region to another, but sufficient amounts have occurred to bolster topsoil moisture to its best levels of the season. Subsoil moisture is still quite low in the west where dryness was most significant earlier this month and last. There is still some dryness in northwestern Argentina and significant rain will be needed in those areas soon to lift topsoil moisture for improved planting and early crop development potentials.

Weather conditions over the coming week will offer additional opportunities for rain across the nation. The precipitation will be most likely Wednesday into Friday and again Oct. 21-23. Dry weather between these two periods will be perfect for planting corn and sorghum while giving early seeded crops a chance to become better established.

BRAZIL

Rain fell in much of Brazil this past week. Amounts were most significant from Rio Grande do Sul through Parana and southern Paraguay to Mato Grosso and Goias where amounts of 1.50 to more than 3.50 inches resulted. Most of the rainfall greater than 3.00 inches occurred in Goias and southeastern Mato Grosso do Sul where 5.25 and 3.35 inches occurred respectively. In contrast, rainfall was minimal in Bahia and eastern Minas Gerais while rainfall in most other areas not mentioned varied from a few hundredths of an inch to 1.00 inch. The precipitation was welcome in all areas where it was more than 0.50 inch.

Soil moisture was still rated poorly in many Minas Gerais and Bahia locations. Bolivia was also still quite dry, but all other areas reported at least some improvement in topsoil moisture and that has likely induced better corn planting and early development conditions. Additional rain over the coming week will further expand the areas of increased soil moisture reducing the problem areas down to less than 20% of the production region. Some excessive rain has already been noted recently and more will occur over the coming week, especially from southeastern Paraguay to Parana and parts of Sao Paulo.

There may continue to be some areas of dryness, but the impact is unlikely to be very great. Crop development should advance more favorably as the soil becomes more moist.

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AUSTRALIA

Queensland, Australia's sorghum areas were rated quite low on soil moisture earlier this week while crops in New South Wales were in much better condition. Rain chances will improve the remainder of this week in Queensland as rain falls from Wednesday into Friday. The moisture influx should raise topsoil moisture for better planting and establishment conditions. New South Wales will get some additional rain, as well, and that should translate into ongoing favorable conditions.

SOUTH AFRICA

Maize planting season usually begins in late October and continues into early December. Rain during this past week was sufficient to raise topsoil moisture for improved pre-planting conditions. The greatest rainfall occurred in Eastern Cape and Natal along with a small part of Gauteng where 1.00 to 2.00 inches and locally more rain was reported. The precipitation was all welcome, but since it was the first of the season many crop areas still had low soil moisture.

Weather in the coming week will trend wetter in time. Rainfall will be minimal through the weekend, but should increase next week to resume the moistening process. Maize production in 2012 is expected to be favorable because of La Nina induced above average rainfall.

CHINA

Good to excellent harvest weather occurred during the past week. Most of the coarse grains were mature and being harvested. Some heavy rain occurred in Guangxi with some significant rain occurring northward into the middle and upper Yangtze River Basin. The precipitation interfered with the harvesting, but should not have caused any damage.

Weather in this coming week will provide some additional rain and sunshine. The mix should be favorable for summer crop maturation and harvesting as well as the planting and establishment of winter grains. Much of this year's lingering harvest will likely conclude in November.

INDIA

Most of the coarse grains produced in India experienced mostly favorable crop weather this past week. Some timely rain was reported, but very few areas received too much rain. The drier biased conditions were great for crop maturation and harvest progress. Areas of rain are not unusual at this time of year, but they are normally becoming fewer in number and less significant over time, but instead this year's moisture may hang on for a while.

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

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Much of this year's harvest should be complete. However, late season farming activity may still be lingering in a few areas. The outlook will provide a mixed weather pattern that will likely slow some fieldwork, but maintain good conditions for late season farming.

EUROPE

Corn and sorghum harvesting should have advanced favorably during the past week. Many of the crop areas that have been driest in recent weeks and months were the areas that had most of their fieldwork complete for the season. Areas that received the greatest rain failed to get as much fieldwork completed, but no harm came to unharvested crops.

Weather conditions through the weekend will remain favorable for late season farming activity with only a few areas to get significant amounts of moisture.

Next week's weather will be wetter in many western and central parts of Europe. That will slow late season harvesting from in France Spain and Portugal, but those areas are among the driest right now suggesting much of the 2011 crop has been harvested.

UNITED STATES

Most of this year's corn is fully mature. However, the harvest is only 33% done as of Sunday. The harvest runs slow so that soybean harvesting can be completed first. Soybeans are more susceptible to rain and other adverse weather conditions after it is mature warranting a faster harvest pace. Corn harvesting will occur after soybeans have been harvested.

Weather conditions in the past week were ideal for the maturation and harvest of summer crops. Corn was no exception and it will be harvested during the second half of this month and on into early November with little delay other than some occasional adverse weather. Weather conditions through the balance of autumn are expected to be mostly favorable with near to below average rainfall and near to above average temperatures to help promote late season maturation and harvest conditions.

There may be some increase in precipitation next week and if it occurs as expected it will be important to get harvesting complete as quickly as possible before weather conditions deteriorate. Some increase in precipitation is expected next week, but harvesting will advance around the moisture. The best drying conditions are expected in the western Midwest and Delta.

MEXICO

Sorghum and corn conditions were rated favorably this past week. Crop development advance as expected with rainfall somewhat restricted and temperatures warm to hot.

Hurricane Jova was moving inland over Jalisco today and the remnants of the storm were expected to produce heavy rain and flooding from Jalisco into Nayarit, Zacatecas, southern Durango and Sinaloa. Soil moisture had been running a little low prior to this week's hurricane. The storm will set back crop maturation and may cause damage to

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immature crops in Jalisco and neighboring areas. Weather conditions should trend drier during the second week of the two-week allowing grain maturation and harvesting to advance favorably.

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