

## EARLY MORNING SOUTH AMERICAN WEATHER REPORT FROM JANUARY 16, 2004

### **PAST 24 HOURS:**

Rain the past 24 hours in the Brazilian soybean belt was reported in extreme northern MGDS, extreme northern Sao Paulo, and all points northward. Through last evening I am able to locate a couple of places in Mato Grosso around or more than an inch of rain. Rains continue to fall in especially the northern half of Mato Grosso overnight, so we may see some pretty impressive 24-hour totals later this morning. The rest of Brazil was dry. Highs yesterday were mainly in the 80s, with any 90s confined to mainly MGDS as well as western parts of RGDS, Parana, and Sao Paulo.

It was dry in Argentina yesterday with high temperatures only reaching the upper 70s.

### **FORECAST:**

Today as well as the weekend continues to look wet for northern growing areas of Brazil. Mato Grosso, Goias, Minas Gerais and Bahia will see a daily threat of late afternoon and nighttime shower and thunderstorm activity. Coverage of the rain in those areas should be close to 100%, and additional amounts through late Sunday look to be on the order of 0.50-2.00" (even heavier than that for especially Minas Gerais and Bahia). It should be largely dry from now through late Sunday for the remainder of the Brazilian growing region. High temperatures will be mostly in the 80s, with any 90s continuing to be found mainly in MGDS (but even there readings should mainly be confined to the 90-95 degree range).

For the work-week period of next week there looks to be very little change in the weather set-up. Northern growing areas of Brazil will see a daily threat of afternoon and nighttime showers and thunderstorms, and rainfall amounts look to be rather heavy in a lot of places. Rainfall chances for MGDS, Sao Paulo, and points southward during that period look quite limited; the next threat for those areas probably not arriving until next weekend (and even then amounts do not look very impressive, especially for RGDS). Temperatures during that period would stay mild, with any 90+ degree heat mainly confined to MGDS and nearby locations and even there most readings should stay below 95.. **Over the next ten days look for rainfall to range from below normal in southern growing areas to above normal in the north. Temperatures should average a little below normal.**

Today and the weekend looks dry in Argentina; maps are really backing off on what limited rainfall threat there was for far southern Buenos Aires for late Sunday and Sunday night. Highs will be in the lower to middle 80s today, middle to upper 80s tomorrow, then upper 80s to lower 90s for Sunday.

The earliest that I can consider a legitimate rainfall threat again for Argentina still looks to be about January 21. At this time I still consider that threat to be a rather weak one, with rainfall amounts likely not very impressive and with coverage not impressive either. I would put amounts at 0.10-0.60" with coverage about 50%. Any localized heavier rains that are seen would likely favor far eastern and far northern parts of the growing areas. You may hear of some forecasters mentioning a wetter look from a weather model known as NOGAPS; that solution is different than what it showed yesterday and goes against the looks of the European and GFS models (both of which are consistent with their runs of yesterday) and thus I disregarded the NOGAPS outlook. As was the case with the forecast models of the past two days, today's GFS model would quickly return Argentina to dry weather again for several days after January 21. High temperatures would be in the 90s for Monday through Wednesday, cool a bit for Thursday/Friday, then probably warm up again next weekend. **Over the next ten days look for rainfall to average below normal in Argentina with temperatures a little above normal.**

## **SYNOPSIS:**

Growing conditions in Brazil right now remain rather good, as soil moisture levels in general should be high and temperatures are not extreme. Concerns certainly could be present next week though, given that the wet weather this week and that which will be seen over the next week or even ten days in Mato Grosso, Goias, Minas Gerais and Bahia would create a more favorable environment for disease pressure. Also, by early next week, crops in southern growing areas of Brazil will start to really desire rain again as topsoils should be starting to dry out; RGDS for example is running below normal on rainfall this month (after of course seeing very heavy rainfall totals in December). A below normal rainfall pattern is forecast over the next ten days in that area.

Considering the dry and fairly warm weather in Argentina for this work-week through early next week, this past weekend's good rainfall event was clearly a needed development. That rain means that growing conditions currently in Argentina are quite good. Soils in Argentina certainly will be drying out fairly rapidly in the near term, but last weekend's rains means that it will be early next week (at the earliest) before this becomes any sort of a concern once again. The dominating overall weather "theme" this year in Argentina has been a lack of significant rainfall chances. However, since December 1, what few rainfall threats there have been have produced good amounts, so these "just in time" rains have created generally good growing conditions. The weather pattern should continue to feature only sporadic rainfall chances as we move into the second half of January; whether good "just in time" rainfall amounts continue to be recorded remains to be seen. The rainfall event for around next Wednesday needs to be a good one to maintain good growing conditions in Argentina; right now I do not believe a "good event" is likely.