

# Commodity Intelligence Report

April 28, 2020

---

## Argentina Corn has Record Area

Argentina increased planting for the 2019/20 season with an estimated harvested area of 6.2 million hectares (mha), up 2 percent from last month and up 2 percent from last year. Late planted corn in central Argentina and in northern regions increased expected area compared to the original estimates (Figure 1). If the estimated area is maintained, it will be a record harvested area for corn in Argentina.

Corn yield is estimated at 8.06 tons per hectare, down 2 percent from last month and down 4 percent from last year (Figure 2). Overall, conditions remain good for much of the corn crop. As fields dried out with a lack of topsoil moisture, corn yields were affected in some regions except where good subsoil moisture or high-water tables supplemented the crop (Figures 3 and 4).

Expected corn production is 50.0 million metric tons, unchanged from last month, but down 2 percent from last year. As of April 23, 2020, the Bolsa Cereales de Buenos Aires reported that 35 percent of the corn crop was in excellent condition, 53 percent is in normal to good condition, and only 12 percent in poor condition. Timely rains in the first half of February 2020 and in early March in the southwest have helped the crop and moderated mid-season temperatures. In addition, beneficial rains during flowering and into seed fill aided grain development. Production is expected to be lower than last year as seen in the MODIS-NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) time-series imagery (Figure 5).

Pest control efforts during the early part of the growing season benefited the corn crop. Fields that will be used for silage, haylage, forage, or direct consumption by livestock have received less care. In areas with ample soil moisture or with high water tables, high yields are probable. At the current estimated production, the 2019/20 Argentina corn crop would be the second largest output on record, just less than 2 percent below last season's record corn crop. In addition, harvested corn area should be a new record (Figure 6).

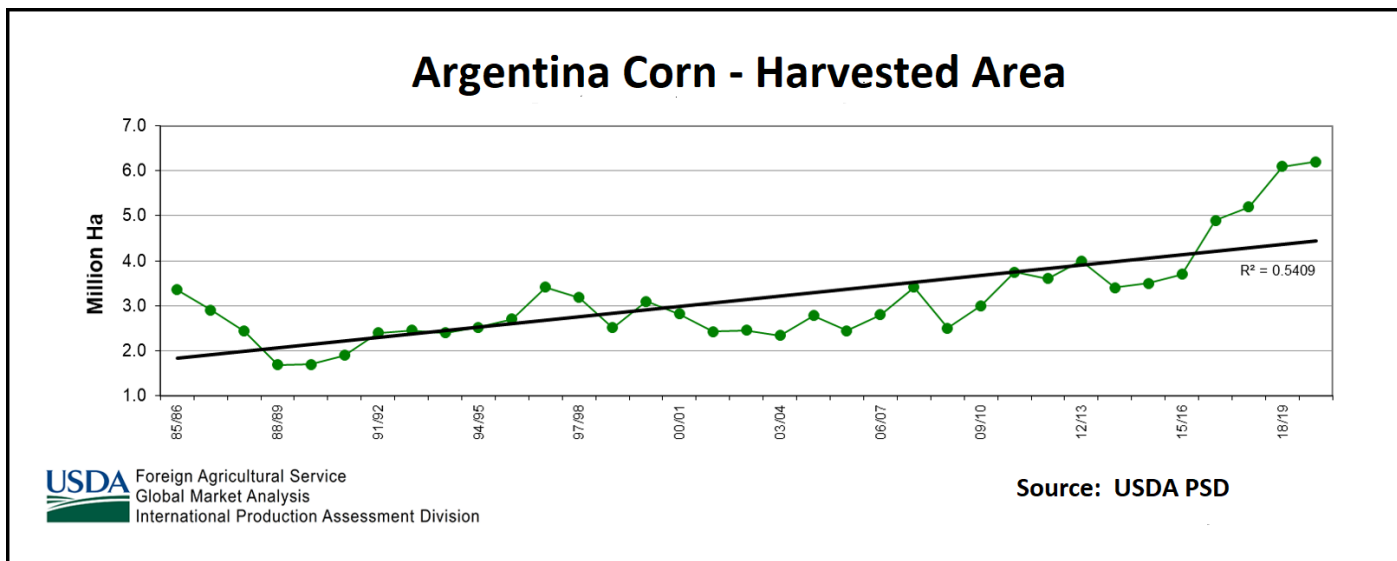


Figure 1: Argentina’s corn harvested area is estimated at a record 6.2 million hectares.

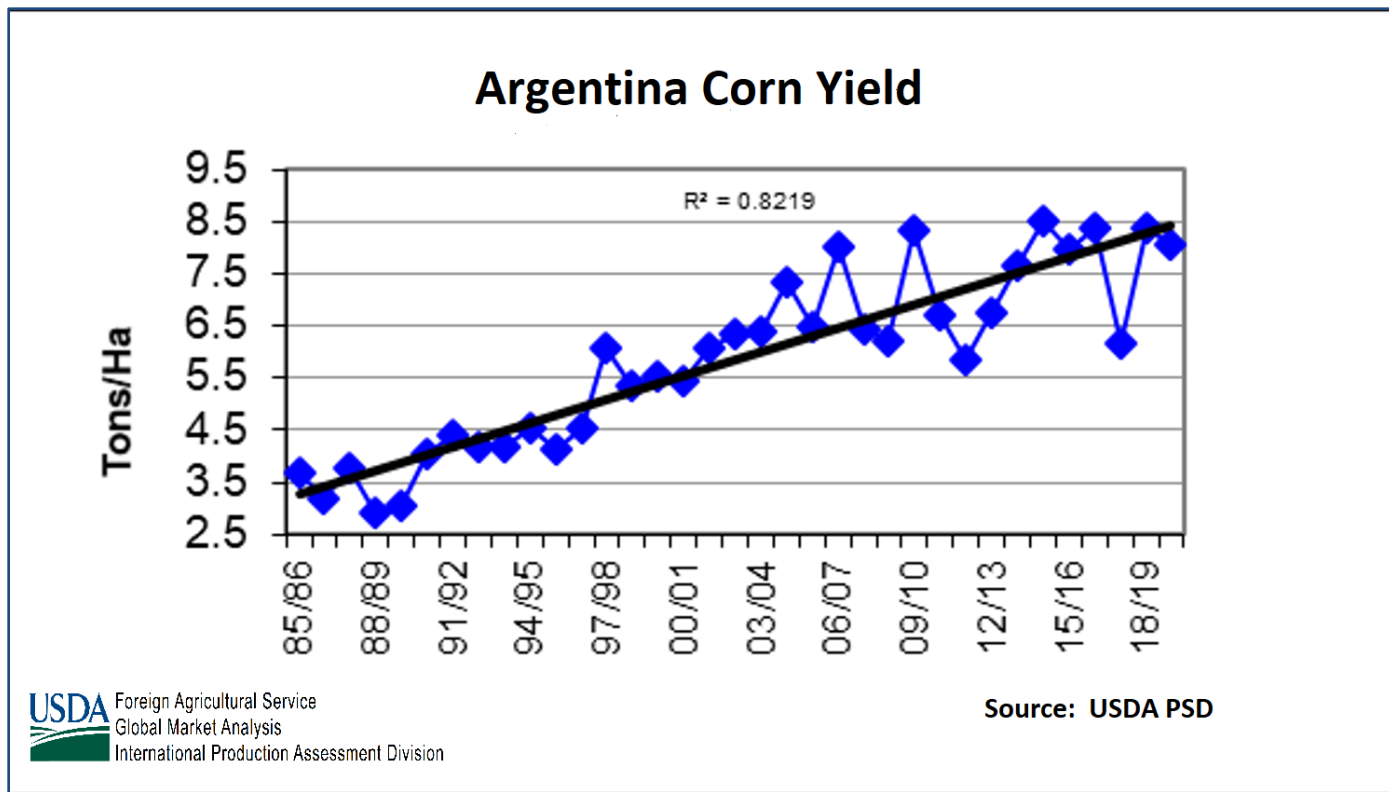
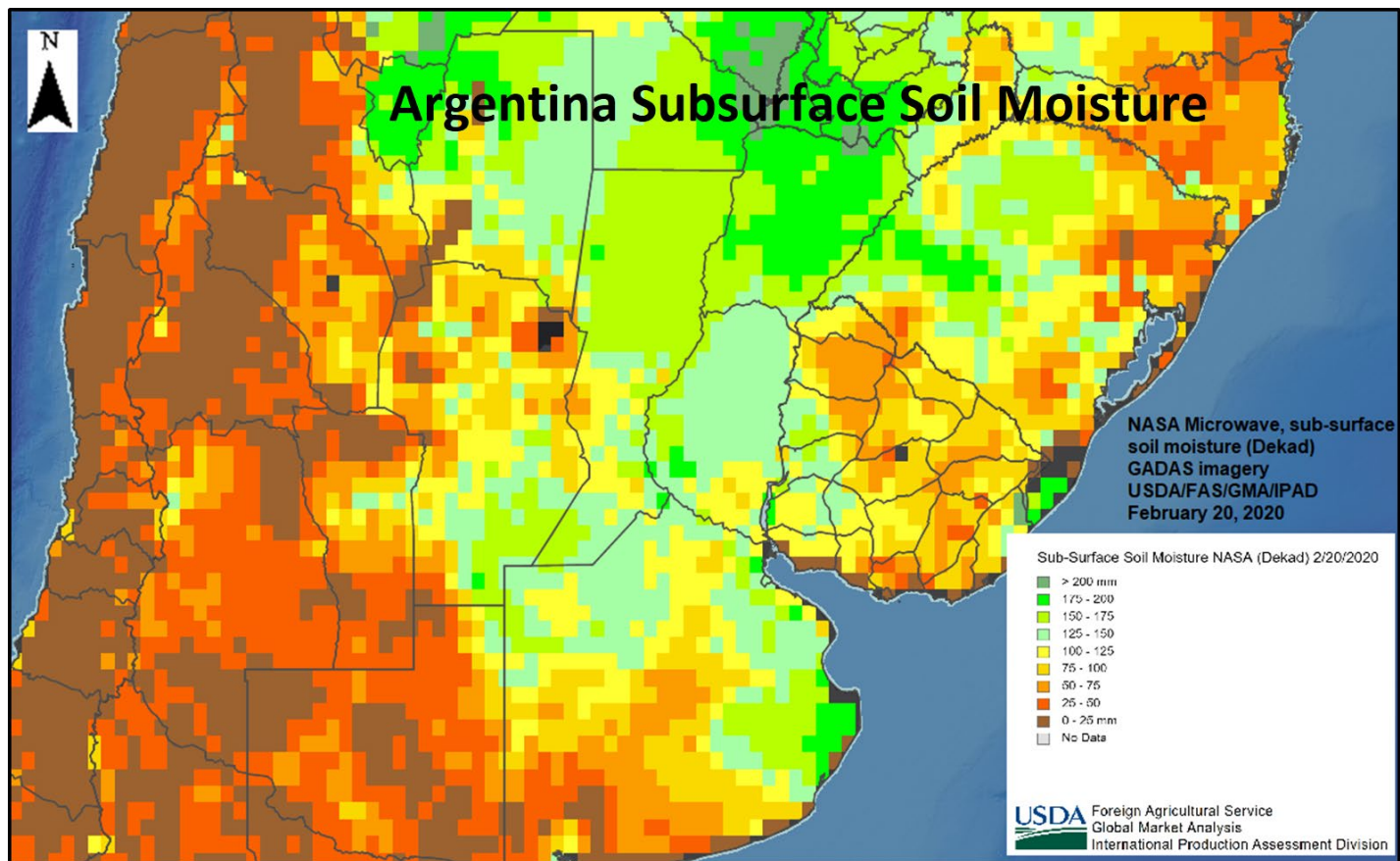
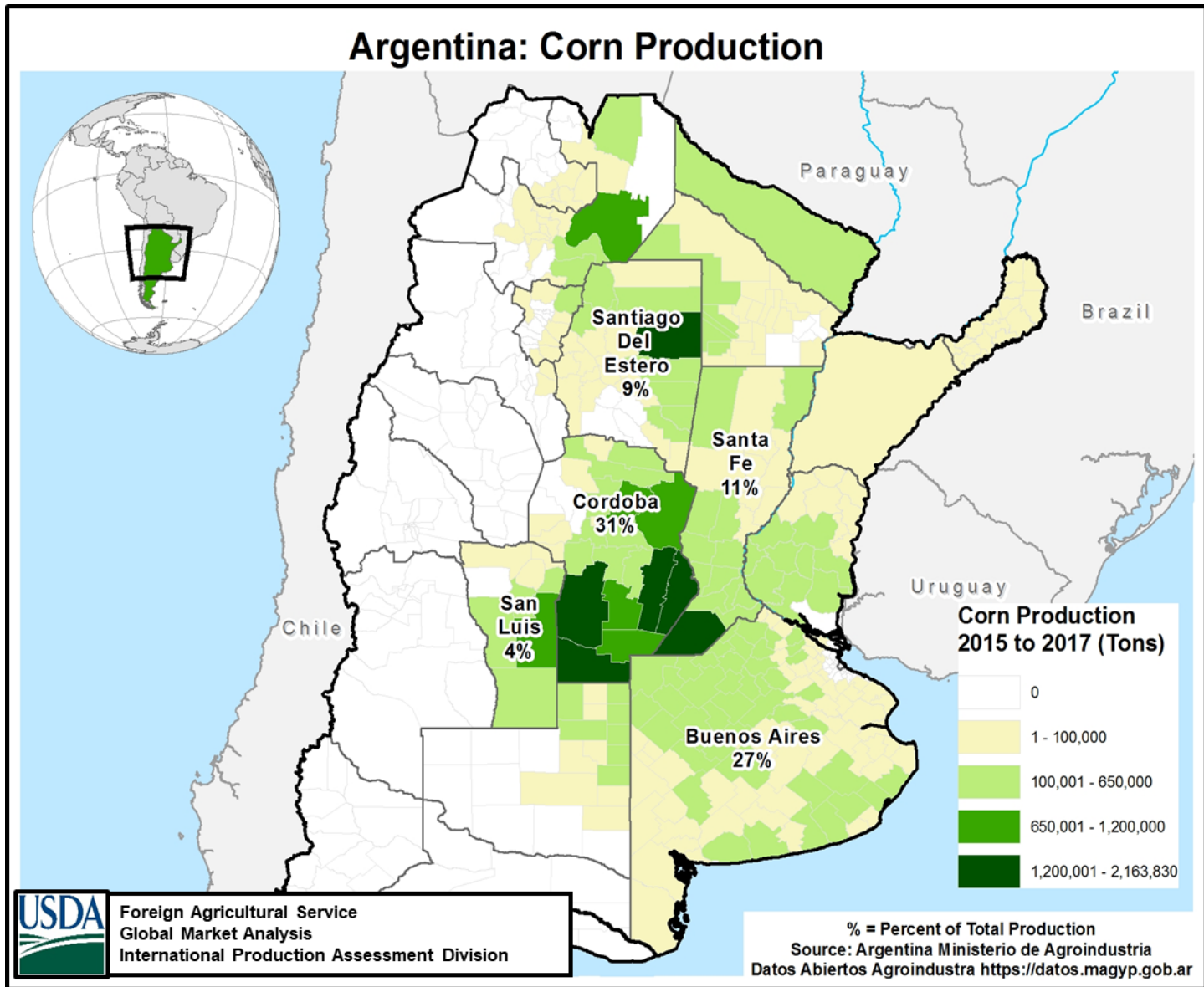


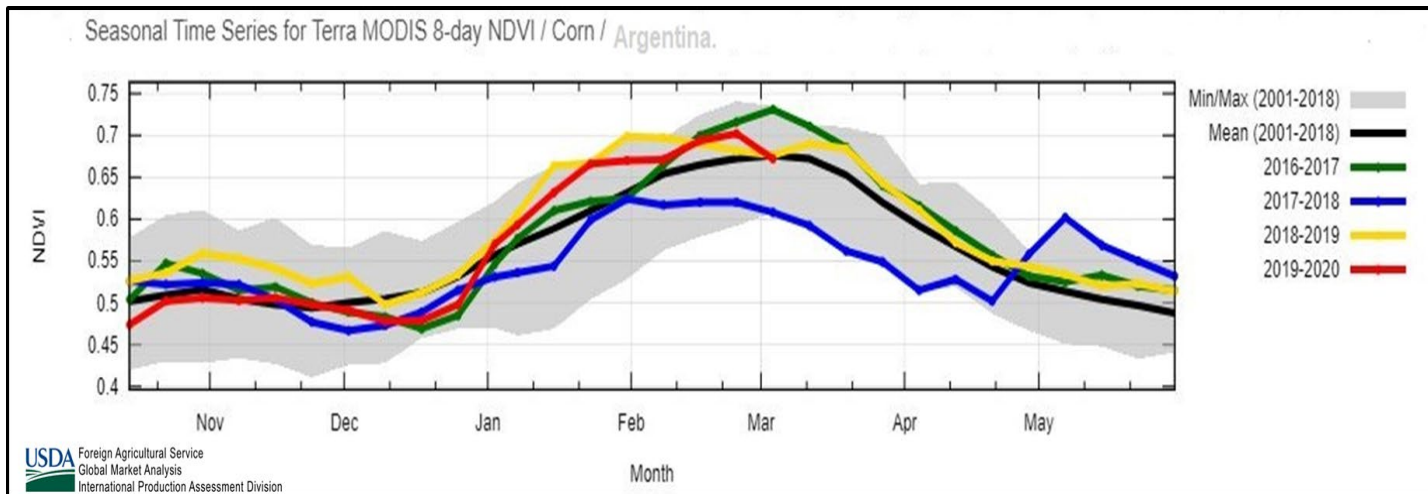
Figure 2: Argentina corn yields are estimated at 8.06 tons per hectare, below last year.



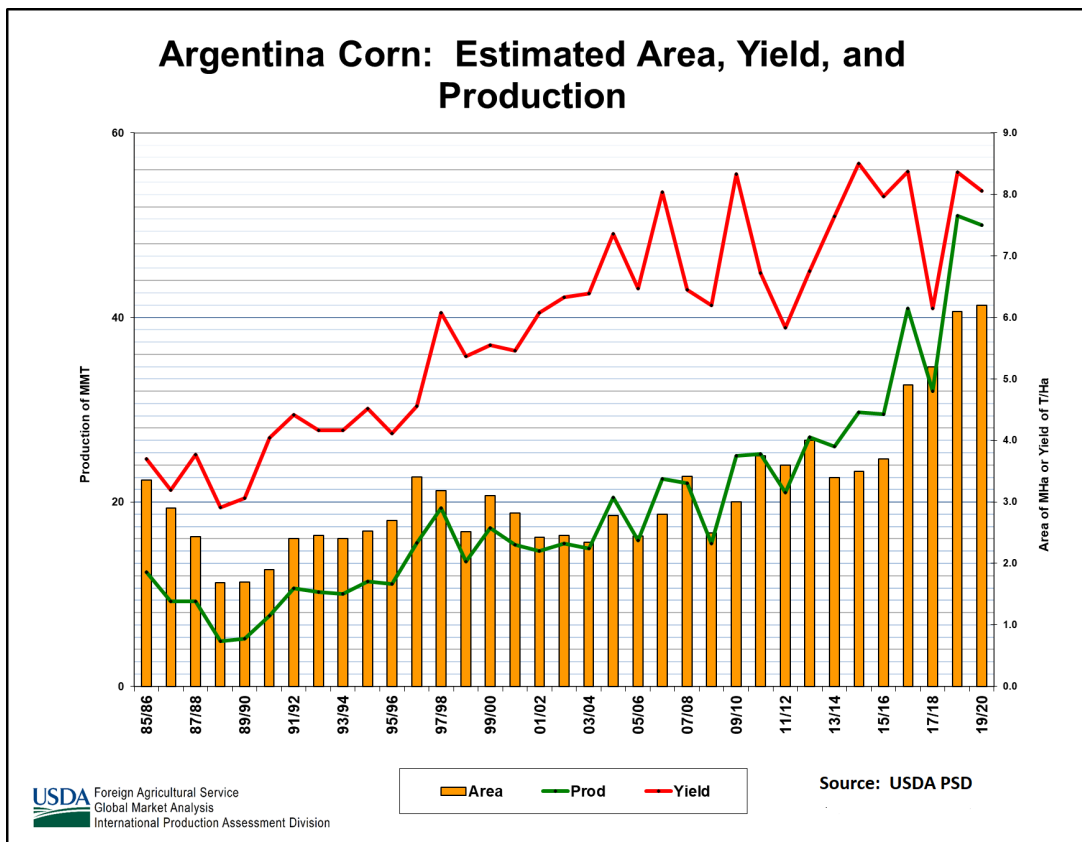
**Figure 3:** Subsoil moisture is helping corn crops in the core growing regions of Argentina as shown in the subsoil moisture availability map as of February 20, 2020. Additional rain will be needed to keep yields and production at estimated levels.



**Figure 4:** Main areas where corn is planted in Argentina. The main core area is centered in the country and has many areas with high water tables which can help the crop assimilate nutrients during grain fill. The driest region is in the southwest, but less corn is grown there.



**Figure 5:** MODIS-NDVI seasonal time series for Argentina corn suggests that the average yield expectation will be below that seen in 2018/19 and just below that of 2016/17, but above the yields seen in 2017/18. Using these year-to-year comparisons helps to evaluate yield and general crop conditions.



**Figure 6:** Record harvested area and near record production is expected in Argentina corn for the 2019/20 season.

---

For additional information contact Dr. Denise McWilliams | [Denise.McWilliams@usda.gov](mailto:Denise.McWilliams@usda.gov) | 202-720-0107.

Current area and production estimates for grains and other agricultural commodities are available on IPAD's Agricultural Production page:

[Crop Explorer https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/or](https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/or)

Production, Supply and Distribution Database (PSD Online):

<http://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdHome.aspx>

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
Office of Global Analysis  
International Production Assessment Division Ag Box 1051, Room 4630, South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-1051  
Telephone: (202) 720-1662 Fax: (202) 720-1158