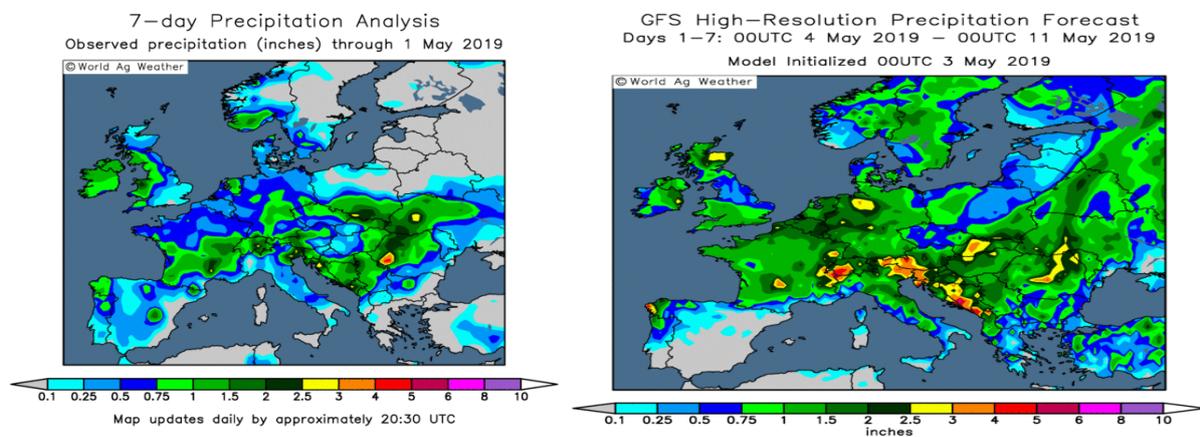


Europe – as you can see in the weather maps below there has been some rain observed in the last days and there is more to come in the 1-7 day time frame. So far the spring barley development looks still ok. Due to lower soil moisture reserves more and constant rainfalls will be needed until harvest and will always be observed and point of discussions. The temperatures have been rather low, so the plant development is not pushed too much and the plant needs less water (than in in full development at higher temperatures). Trading wise the market is a bit stuck with prices rather stable whereas the grain complex decreased and consequently the malting premium increased further. Building up a risk premium in the current context is normal. How much risk premium is needed?



France Agrimer – spring barley ratings of this week are stable at 86% gd/ex vs 80% last year. Winter barley ratings are at 75% gd/ex (74% last year). Wheat is unchanged at 79% gd/ex (78% last year).

Grains- Saudi Arabia issued a new tender for 840k mt feed barley for July-August 2019. Does France have a chance against Black Sea barley? We will know more about it next week. Informa increased their wheat production estimate for Russia by 5 mln mt to an optimistic 82 mln mt and Ukraine is seen up by 1 mln mt to 28 mln mt. Consequently futures are down again with Euronext touching contract lows (Dec 19) at 175,- eur/mt. USDA will publish their latest figures on Friday next week. It will be their first S&D for new crop and also the first time with an estimate excl. Chinese stocks ... maybe we will see some surprises?

Australia – it is still dry in Australia although some rains have been observed lately. Barley plantings are on their way with roughly abt. 50% done so far. More rain is certainly needed, but be aware it is still early in the season.

Have a good weekend.