

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period June 9 – June 15, 2012

General Interest: No general interest this week.

Weather: A few storms developed nearly each day over a small portion of eastern Colorado through Wednesday. Some of this activity progressed into Kansas on Tuesday and moved through those counties along the Oklahoma border. The rest of the area experienced partly cloudy to mostly cloudy afternoons and evenings while temperatures ranged from the 80's at the start of the week to the low 90's by Thursday. Storms moved into Kansas from Colorado Thursday evening. These storms crossed into Kansas as low intensity thunderstorms. However, several gust fronts interacted with storms over Ness and Lane counties causing severe storms there. More storms occurred Friday evening mainly over the northern portions of the target area. Although rather small and scattered, a few neared the potential for small hail over Wichita and Lane counties.

Operations: There were two operational days this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred each day.

June 14th, Program Operations Day #8

All aircraft were launched at 5:26 p.m. to a developing line of storms stretching from western Scott County southwest into Kearny and Hamilton counties. Brief seeding for hail suppression was conducted over northwestern Scott and northeastern Wichita from 6:31 to 7:08. Planes then patrolled several areas of weaker storm activity over Wichita, Scott and Kearny Counties. By 6:51, radar indicated rapid development over Lane County due primarily to the collision of multiple gust fronts. Severe storms quickly blossomed with seeding for hail suppression beginning at 6:56. Seeding was terminated at 7:29 as the updrafts associated with these storms had pushed into Ness and Hodgeman counties effectively becoming cutoff from the parent storm over eastern Lane. With the planes forced out of the prime location for seeding on the parent storm, planes returned to base.

June 15th, Program Operations Day #9

One plane was launched at 11:28 p.m. to perform limited seeding for hail suppression on small short-lived storms over the northern portion of the target area. In total, four storms were seeded from 11:52 p.m. to 12:46 a.m. over Wichita and Lane counties. Other storms were also noted over other portions of the target area but remained below hail limits. The plane returned to base at 1:22 a.m. By 1:35 a.m., radar indicated another storm developed over southeastern Kearny and became strong. At about the same time, lightning hit the Lakin office causing a complete power outage. Luckily, the southeastern Kearny storm was traveling east and shortly traveled into Finney county where it continued growing and would eventually become a very large storm complex covering a large portion of south-central Kansas during the overnight hours.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program