

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period June 16 – June 22, 2012

General Interest: Droughty conditions are rapidly spreading across Kansas. The speed of this current drought is really striking as the entire state is now in some level of drought. This time last month, May 15th, drought covered only 24% of Kansas. One of the hardest hit regions of drought last year was in Morton County as that area lingered in exceptional drought for a very protracted period of time. Today, that same area is now the driest again with nearly all of eastern Morton and western Stevens in extreme drought. Sadly, about 50% of the contiguous United States now resides in drought. Could this year's drought eclipse the coverage and severity of last year's drought? Our area typically experiences the highest monthly rain totals during June and July. Thus far, June rains have been pretty sparse and their effects were very short lived due to high heat and copious sunshine. As far as July precipitation, nothing stands out in the long term computer models pointing to any significant drought relief. Short-term, drought conditions will likely increase substantially over the next week or so due to a persistent ridge of high pressure resulting in a long period of temperatures over 100 degrees under a blazing sun. The temperature forecast here for the next several days is nearly the same as for the Mojave Desert this week!

Source:

Drought Monitor: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Weather: The week started out with a few thunderstorms passing through the area on Saturday night. Cooler temperatures were the rule for the first half of the work week with a small round of thundershowers Tuesday night mainly along and south of a Syracuse to Garden City line. A warming trend ensued starting Thursday. The mercury climbed back into the middle to upper 90's with sunny skies on Friday.

Operations: There was one operational day this week. Seeding for rain optimization occurred that day.

June 16th, Program Operations Day #10

One plane was launched at 8:36 p.m. to investigate a small area of storms traveling northeast out of Colorado. Seeding for rain optimization began at 9:53 p.m. over southwestern Hamilton. Radar indicated these storms were fairly benign at this point as they rode along a weak gust front. Seeding stopped at 10:07 over southwestern Hamilton. Additional small rainstorms formed along a line extending from Syracuse to Lydia to Modoc and then east into Scott and Lane from 9:55 to around 2:00 a.m.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program