

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period June 30 – July 6, 2012

General Interest: County rainfall averages for June

County precipitation averages for June indicate a devastating moisture deficit for the second month in a row for all target area counties. June totals last year were also below average for most counties but were still roughly double or more the monthly accumulation of June 2012. It is very hard to imagine June precipitation could ever get any worse than what occurred this year. Rain reports from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), www.cocorahs.org, indicate the highest 2012 June county precipitation average was in Hamilton County with 1.47 inches or 42% below normal for Hamilton. Following Hamilton, Lane County reported 0.73 inches (74% below normal for Lane), Kearny County with 0.67 inches (77% below), Wichita County recording 0.62 inches (76% below), and Scott County with 0.29 inches (90% below). Scott County also reported the least amount of precipitation last month with only 0.25 inches resulting in a 2-month total of only 0.54 inches on average for a precipitation deficit of 5.30 inches since May 1st!

The current 60-day departure from normal precipitation map indicates the areas with largest departure exists over southern Scott County, and roughly 65% to 70% of Lane County with most of the exceptionally dry swath over southern Lane. One small section of Lane County just south of Alamota indicates near normal precipitation accumulation for the 60-day period. Two significant storm episodes resulted in roughly six to nine inches or more of rain there. Interestingly, an area ten miles southwest of Alamota indicates only 0.50 inches to 1.00 inch of total precipitation. This particular area clearly highlights just how spotty the rains have been over such short distances. However, for most locations, the pattern has been extensively dry. On average, the entire 5-county target area of Hamilton, Kearny, Wichita, Scott and Lane show only 10% to 25% of normal precipitation since May 7th.

Source:

NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service: <http://water.weather.gov/precip/>

Weather: The week started out with a few thunderstorms passing through the area on Saturday night. The rest of the week was a broken record with mostly sunny to sunny skies with highs in the upper 90's to lower 100's.

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

June 30th, Program Operations Day #11

One plane was launched at 8:17 p.m. to investigate storms over southeastern Lane County. The Lane storms maintained a threat for small hail for a few minutes before transitioning to a rain event. The plane moved to northern Scott and northwestern Lane counties where an organized line of moderate to heavy rain was moving southeast atop a south-southeast moving gust front. Seeding for rain optimization began at 9:07 over northern Scott and northwestern Lane. By 9:19, seeding was extended to cover that section of the line near Modoc. Seeding continued over Scott and Lane counties through 9:50. The rain shield ended up covering all of Scott and Lane counties by 10:05. Seeding for rain became confined to additional smaller storms over Kearny from 10:00 to 10:42 at which time the plane returned to base.

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Western Kansas Weather Modification Program