

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period July 28 – August 3, 2012

General Interest: County rainfall averages for July

County precipitation averages for July indicate yet another staggering moisture deficit for the third month in a row for all target area counties. July totals last year were a mixed bag as Hamilton, Wichita, Scott and Lane recorded near normal to above normal precipitation while all other counties reported a deficit. Rain reports from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), www.cocorahs.org, indicate the highest 2012 July county precipitation average was in Scott County with 2.20 inches or 31% below normal for Scott. Following Scott, Lane County reported 1.07 inches (67% below normal for Lane), Kearny County with 1.05 inches (61% below), Wichita County recording 0.89 inches (70% below), and Hamilton County with 0.88 inches (67% below).

As noted in previous newsletters, the period when precipitation is most plentiful is during the May through July period in western Kansas. This year, it may turn out to be the period when the least amount of precipitation fell of any 3-month period for the year. The 90-day, May – July, precipitation totals indicated the least amount of precipitation fell in Wichita County with only 1.67 inches (80% below normal) which represents a deficit of 6.80 inches for the 3-month period. Kearny and Lane counties tied for second driest with 2.06 inches which corresponds to 74% below normal for Kearny and 78% below normal for Lane. The resulting precipitation deficit for Kearny comes to 6.57 inches while the deficit for Lane equals 7.31 inches for the period. The May through July total for Scott County was 2.70 inches (70% below normal) which represents a precipitation deficit of 6.34 inches. Hamilton recorded the most precipitation with 2.86 inches (62% below normal) resulting in a deficit of 7.31 inches. The rather striking aspect of this data is that it took nearly three full months of precipitation accumulation to total what any one of these counties would roughly average in just one month during the period!

Weather: High heat continued throughout the week. A few isolated weak rainstorms occurred over the area Tuesday night. Otherwise, high pressure aloft dominated the weather resulting in the same old routine of mostly sunny afternoons and no significant rain. By Thursday evening and night, an outflow boundary pushed into the area from Colorado bringing with it a band of widespread light to moderate rainfall! Thunderstorms broke out on Friday ahead of a cold front that swept through the area Friday night. The Friday evening storms were mainly concentrated along and slight north of a stationary boundary near the Oklahoma border counties.

Operations: No operations occurred this week. Observation flights were conducted on August 1st and 2nd.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program