

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period August 18 – August 24, 2012

General Interest: No general interest this week.

Weather: An upper level disturbance passed through the region Friday night. Storms broke late Friday night across a significant portion of western Kansas. While most of these storms ranged the gamut of rainfall intensity, a few intensified enough to produce some hail. Tranquil conditions prevailed through Thursday morning across the area while some storms were noted each day across portions of eastern Colorado. By Thursday afternoon/evening, scattered storms developed across western Kansas in response to plentiful moisture, unstable conditions and the approach of an upper level coming out of Colorado. Due to high instability, some storms became severe across portions of northwest Kansas. Storms developed again Friday over southwest Kansas along and east of a surface trough near the Colorado border. Marginal hail occurred with these storms due to strong surface heating and another upper level disturbance passing through the area.

Operations: There were three operational days this week. Seeding for rain optimization occurred two days while hail suppression occurred the other day.

August 18th, Program Operations Day #15

One plane was launched at 3:20 a.m. to investigate strong storm activity around Healy in Lane County. Radar indicated this storm was capable of producing hail to the size of nickels. Updrafts on these storms were very spotty. The plane returned to Lakin. Two planes were launched at 5:45 a.m. to investigate another round of storms pushing out of northwest Kansas. Again, updrafts were spotty with only a few pockets of sustained upward motion. Seeding for rain optimization began at 6:25 over northwestern Lane/northeastern Scott. Seeding for rain optimization also began at 6:44 over northern Wichita County. By 6:50, a line of storms stretched from northern Lane west to northern Wichita. Additional storms also began developing over northern Kearny and northern Hamilton. Seeding was extended to western Kearny by 7:20. All seeding was terminated at 7:46 as the bulk of the storm mass was exiting the target area. Planes returned to base at 7:50.

August 23rd, Program Operations Day #16

Two aircraft were launched at 4:35 p.m. to investigate developing storms over southern Kearny County. Aside from the Kearny storms, scattered storm development occurred elsewhere. Seeding for rain optimization began at 5:20 over northwestern Kearny County and ended at 6:45 over southern Wichita County. Seeding also began at 5:34 p.m. and ended at 5:35 over southwestern Kearny. At 6:20, one plane continued to patrol the Wichita County storm core while the other plane returned to base. The last plane finished patrolling at 7:30 and returned to base.

August 24th, Program Operations Day #17

Two aircraft were launched at 3:16 p.m. to investigate a developing cluster of storms slowly moving northeast over extreme Baca County, Colorado and Stanton County, Kansas. The storm portion over Baca had become severe by 3:19 while the Stanton portion was strong to borderline severe by 3:20. Seeding for hail suppression began at 3:49 over extreme northern Grant County on a fast developing line of strong to borderline severe storms moving north. By 4:10, radar indicated an intense line of northward moving storms extending from south of Deerfield southwest into Grant and Stanton counties along with additional storm development into Morton. Due to the exceedingly slow movement, heavy rain was occurring with this line. Additional strong storms were also developing from north of Deerfield northeast into Scott and Lane counties. Seeding for hail suppression began at 4:40 over southeastern Scott. By 5:20, the strongest storms were located over Scott County within a highly dynamic environment. All seeding stopped at 5:48 over Scott County. Rain continued to spread across Wichita and Scott counties through 6:10. Planes returned to base at 6:20.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program