

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period April 28 – May 4, 2012

General Interest: County rainfall averages for April

County precipitation averages indicate a moisture surplus for all target area counties. Last year, April had mixed results as three counties reported a slight precipitation surplus while the majority of the area was diving ever deeper into an intense drought. This year, a moistening trend seems to be taking shape with the drought shrinking down across most of the area. Drought does however exist across a tiny section of extreme southeastern Kearny County and some dryness still remaining over southern Lane. Otherwise, the rest of the target area is in the normal category. Elsewhere, moderate to severe drought still lingers over Grant, Finney, Haskell, Gray, Morton, Stevens, Seward, and Meade counties. Rain reports from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), www.cocorahs.org, indicate the highest 2012 April county precipitation average was in Hamilton County with 2.38 inches or 87% above normal for Hamilton. Following Hamilton, Wichita County reported 2.26 inches (55% above normal for Wichita), Lane County with 2.24 inches (54% above), Kearny County recording 2.05 inches (37% above), and Scott County with 1.67 inches (6% above).

Weather: The week started out rather cool with mostly sunny skies and moderate winds on Saturday. A few storms developed during the late afternoon hours over southwestern Kansas and moved eastward. Cool temperatures followed on Sunday with mostly cloudy skies. A warming trended started Monday and by the end of the week temperatures were in middle 90's with sunny skies.

Operations: There was one operational day this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred that day.

April 29th, Program Operations Day #3

One plane was launched to the western target area at 4:05 p.m. to investigate a cluster of weak storm activity pulling up out of Colorado. A second plane was launched at 4:08. Brief seeding for hail suppression was carried out from 4:36 to 4:41 over extreme northwestern Stanton. This cloud turned out to be the northern flank of a compact line of storms that eventually trudged east over the southern portion of southwest Kansas for a few more hours. Planes returned to base at 5:56.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program