

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period May 19 – May 25, 2012

General Interest: A huge expansion of dry conditions occurred on the drought maps over the past week. The drought map issued on May 15th indicated only 24% of Kansas was in some level of abnormally dry or drought conditions. The latest map posted May 22nd indicates that 84% of Kansas is abnormally dry or drought stricken. The axis of this dry area extends from southwest Kansas northeast into northeastern Kansas. The only areas of Kansas still classified as normal exists over southeastern Kansas and Cheyenne County in northwest Kansas. This trend is pretty worrisome to say the least, as we have more or less transitioned into our time of the year for the best chances of significant rainfall. The general lack of stormy weather has also kept WKWMP flight days down to record lows for the month. Thus far, the program has had only two seeding days this month. Generally, we should have flown eight to nine days this month already. Mostly likely, we will have three seeding days this month if storms form on May 30th. The record for least number of seeding days of any May since the program started in 1975, is three days. The program had three days of May seeding in the years 2000, 2009 and 2011.

Source: Drought Monitor
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/archive.html>

Weather: A few strong to severe storms occurred over portions of west-central and northwest Kansas Saturday and then central Kansas during the evening hours. One storm formed over extreme southwest Kansas Tuesday during the late afternoon and then faded away due to the loss of daytime heating at sundown. By late evening on Wednesday, a storm moved into western Kansas from Colorado and impacted a portion of the target area while widespread severe weather impacted portions of northwest and north-central Kansas. Hot but tranquil conditions rounded out the week.

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

May 23rd, Program Operations Day #4

Two planes were launched at 10:09 p.m. to intercept a hailing storm traveling east out of Colorado and into Hamilton County. Seeding for hail suppression began at 10:48 northwest of Syracuse. The storm passed into northern Kearny at 11:15. Seeding stopped at 11:35 over northeastern Kearny. The storm continued east into Finney by 11:44. Planes returned to base at midnight.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program