

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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NOTE 1: Any person, group, newspaper or entity not receiving this newsletter and wishes to receive it either by email or mail, or if you are getting it and wish to discontinue, or if you have an address change, please respond to us using one of the above contact points.

General Interest: The Western Kansas Weather Modification Program (WKWMP) started its 39th consecutive season of operations this week. The program will operate for roughly five months this year, April 16th through September 15th. The program's objectives remain unchanged: to reduce hail and optimize rainfall over a portion of western and southwestern Kansas. The sources of funding this year are from participating counties, Groundwater Management Districts in Scott City and Garden City and the State of Kansas. Western Kansas Groundwater Management District #1 in Scott City is the WKWMP administrator who owns all the equipment and hires the personnel. This year, three cloud-base seeding aircraft will be utilized as well as our cloud-top aircraft. The target area consists of 5 participating counties: Wichita, Scott, Lane, Hamilton, and Kearny.

Walt Geiger, Program Meteorologist (12th year) will direct seeding operations from the operations office at the Kearny County Airport. WKWMP Pilots-In-Command this year include Kyle Spencer out of Scott City and Scott Bryant out of Lakin. Kyle Spencer (27th year), our Program Manager and Chief Pilot will be flying cloud-base or cloud-top depending on forecasted storm severity. Scott Bryant (7th year) will fly cloud-base. Weston Thompson out of Scott City and Steve Phillips out of Syracuse will occasionally serve as stand-in pilots or command a third plane depending on forecasted storm severity.

Weather: A powerful storm system arrived during the middle of the week. This system brought unseasonably cold temperatures along with a dusting of snow and some light ice accumulation Thursday morning.

Operations: There were no operations this week.

Acknowledgement: The Western Kansas Weather Modification Program is funded, in part, through the State Water Plan, administered by the Kansas Water Office.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program