

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No. 2013-11

For the period June 22 – June 28, 2013

General Interest: With seeding day number eighteen occurring this week, the program has already eclipsed the total number of seeding days for the entire season last year. The total number of operational days in 2012 was a paltry seventeen days. Storm episodes have certainly been more frequent this season than last but drought strength still appears to be nearly just as deep as last season with the western half of western Kansas still in the stranglehold of exceptional drought. In a normal precipitation season, the program would average about 25 seeding days by June 30th.

Weather: The week started out hot and sunny for most locations across the area. However, some severe storms broke out over Greeley and Wichita counties during the early evening and pushed northeast on Saturday. On Sunday, a small area of storms occurred over extreme southwestern Kansas along the Colorado border. Tranquil conditions prevailed across the target area Monday through Wednesday while some severe weather formed during the late afternoon and evening mainly east of Dodge City Monday. A small line of storms formed Thursday afternoon over portions of Wichita and eastern Hamilton counties and then pushed east and expanded. Although there were brief periods of small hail production, moderate to heavy brief rain characterized this line of storms along with some moderate to strong wind. Very hot and sunny conditions rounded out the week.

Operations: There were three operational days this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred two of the three days while some rain optimization was also preformed two of the three days. Also, two observation flights occurred on June 18th.

June 22nd, Program Operations Day #16

Two aircraft were launched at 5:46 p.m. to seeding an area of rapidly developing storms over western and northwestern Wichita County. Seeding for hail suppression began at 6:21. By 7:03, new storms were developing over eastern Greeley and would merge with the Wichita County storm cell. The storm merger was complete by 7:12 over western Wichita. The cloud then grew upscale into a supercell storm with very little northeast movement. Radar indicated the cloud had the potential for very large hail. Seeding continued over northern Wichita until the cloud exited the target area at 7:38. Planes patrolled the area for a brief time before turning for base at 7:48.

June 23rd, Program Operations Day #17

One plane was launched at 8:03 to investigate a storms traveling north-northeast through western Stanton County. Although the storm was showing a weakening trend, the cloud would cross into southern Hamilton. A brief period of seeding for rain optimization began at 8:38 and continued until updrafts were lost at 8:49. The cloud crossed into extreme southwestern Hamilton but continued to fade away. The plane turned for base at 8:50.

June 27th, Program Operations Day #18

Two planes were launched at 1:59 p.m. to investigate new storm development along a surface boundary over northern Scott County. Seeding for rain optimization began at 2:26 over Scott County with the seed track extended into Lane County by 2:30. Seeding for rain optimization began at 2:35 over northern Kearny County. Rain optimization seeding continued over Kearny County through 3:00 while periods of rain optimization and hail suppression over Scott and Lane counties continued. By 3:38, seeding was confined to an area from Lakin to near Deerfield and also over southern Lane where a larger cluster of storms remained concentrated. In general, storms were traveling southeast at around 16 mph. Seeding was terminated at 3:47 over southern Lane as this cloud was exiting out of the target area. Seeding was terminated at 3:56 over southern Kearny as these clouds were also ready to exit the target area. The planes turned for base at 3:58.

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