

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 254 Lakin , KS 67860

Lakin Office: 620-355-6913

waltergeiger@yahoo.com

Internet: www.gmd1.org/index-3.html

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period July 6 – July 12, 2013

General Interest: No general interest this week.

Weather: The week started out hot and mostly sunny. A few thundershowers broke out across the area Saturday and Sunday due mainly to heating of the day and weak upper level disturbances passing through the area. Another round of storms fired during the afternoon hours Tuesday across west-central and southwestern Kansas. While numerous small storms formed, a few of them became strong with even some severe storms noted over Logan and Gove counties. Scattered storms developed again Tuesday and Wednesday. Most of the storms on Tuesday were single-cell with occasional clusters. The first and second round of storms Wednesday were single-cell with some clustering before a line of storms pushed through a portion of the area around and after sunset. Hot and tranquil conditions finished the week.

Operations: There were four operational days this week. Seeding for rain optimization occurred two days while rain optimization and hail suppression occurred the other two days. Also, one observation flight was conducted on July 7th.

July 6th, Program Operations Day #19

One plane was launched at 5:25 p.m. to investigate small thundershowers over northern Kearny County. Radar indicated these storms were very short-topped with relatively small cores of light to moderate rain. Seeding for rain optimization was conducted from 6:06 to 6:20 over northern Kearny. Another shower was ongoing over southeastern Hamilton County through 6:10 but was considerably weaker in intensity. At 6:20, the showers over Hamilton showed some slight intensification. The plane was sent to investigate at 6:22. A brief period of rain optimization was conducted over eastern Hamilton at 6:31 to 6:33. Seeding for rain optimization was conducted again from 6:52 to 6:54 over northern Kearny. Also, rain optimization was conducted near Lydia at 6:58 to 7:00. A second plane was launched at 7:05. Seeding occurred again from 7:20 to 7:32 just east of Syracuse. Further northeast, seeding for rain optimization began at 7:32 over northwestern Scott County and ended at 8:03. Seeding for rain optimization was carried out from 8:41 to 8:43 near Leoti. Here, radar indicated a singular storm as opposed to small multi-cellular storms so typical of other storms of the day. A period of rain optimization was conducted from 8:51 to 9:54 over extreme northeastern Scott County on the southern edge of a rather broad cluster of storms traveling southeast into mainly northern Lane County. Seeding was terminated on this line of light to moderate intensity rainstorms at 9:55 with the plane turning for base.

July 7th, Program Operations Day #20

One plane was launched at 3:43 p.m. to investigate severe small rainstorms for possible rain optimization over Kearny and Hamilton counties. Seeding for rain optimization began at 4:37 near and east of Syracuse. A second plane was launched at 4:53. By 5:20, limited seeding still continued on pulse-type storms over portions of southern Hamilton County. Elsewhere, a broken line of light to occasionally moderate rainstorms continued along highway 50 from Kendall to Lakin as well as from north of Kendall northeast

into southwestern Scott County. Seeding was terminated over Hamilton at 6:15. Meanwhile, a patrol was carried out on a large area of convergent storms just northern of Wichita and Scott counties. However, these storms stayed north of the target area. The plane patrolling then turned and headed back to base at 6:58.

July 9th, Program Operations Day #21

Two planes were launched at 3:15 p.m. to investigate storm development near and in Wichita County. Radar indicated these storms had the potential to intensify into hailstorms. By 3:45, radar indicated the strong storm over western Wichita was in the process of rapid decay. Also, a very strong storm over Logan County traveling southeast was dissipating rapidly too. A patrol of several areas of storms began at 3:50 over Kearny, Logan and Wichita counties. Seeding for hail suppression began at 4:06 near Lakin. Also, seeding for rain optimization began at 4:24 just east of Scott City. Seeding continued over western Lane/eastern Scott through 4:56 while the other plane was patrolling storms over southwestern Kearny. The plane patrolling southwestern Kearny turned for base at 5:14 while seeding for rain continued over central Lane. A brief period of hail suppression was conducted over eastern Lane from 6:23 to 6:36. After, 6:36, seeding transitioned back to rain optimization. Seeding stopped over extreme eastern Lane and 5:45 as the storm was exiting the target area. The plane turned for base at 5:49.

July 10th, Program Operations Day #22

One plane was launched at 2:05 to investigate storm development along a surface boundary running north/south through Hamilton County. Seeding for rain optimization began over northeastern Hamilton County at 2:45. At 3:08, radar indicated the threat for possible hail at which time seeding transitioned to hail suppression. The hail threat ended at 3:19. Rain optimization resumed at 3:29 over northeastern Hamilton and continued until 3:40. At 3:40, hail suppression began over northwestern Hamilton. A second plane was launched to Hamilton at 3:50. By 4:10, radar showed a line of scattered storms stretching from southern Hamilton northwest into Greeley County. Seeding for hail suppression began at 4:21 over southern Hamilton. Meanwhile, a brief period of seeding was carried out near Selkirk from 4:30 to 4:40 on a smaller storm traveling northeast atop a gust front. Seeding for hail suppression continued over northern Hamilton and southern Greeley counties through 5:00. At 5:05, seeding was terminated over southern Hamilton as this cloud was slowly moving into northern Stanton. Hail suppression seeding continued through 5:45 over northern Hamilton. Seeding stopped over Hamilton at 5:50. The planes patrolled the storm for a few minutes before turning for base at 5:57.

Two planes were launched at 7:16 to begin seeding a strong storm traveling southwest atop a gust front into northeastern Scott/northwestern Lane counties. Radar indicated this storm pulsing in intensity. Seeding for hail suppression began at 7:35. Seeding continued through 7:20 over northeastern Scott County. Although this storm has been rather compact, the storm core remained intense. Seeding was terminated northeast of Scott City at 8:27 as the storm was entering the dissipation stage. Planes turned for base at 8:32.

Two aircraft were launched at 11:20 to investigate a powerful storm behind an outflow boundary over southeastern Scott. A brief period of seeding began at 11:41 to 11:44 in very limited choppy updrafts. Planes continued searching for more sustained updrafts for roughly 45-minutes but to no avail. Finally, the hail core subsided 12:35 a.m. 4-miles west of Shallow Water. Planes turned for base at 12:40.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program