

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 254 Lakin , KS 67860

Lakin Office: 620-355-6913

waltergeiger@vahoo.com

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

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period July 20 – July 26, 2013

General Interest: There is a fair chance rainfall totals for the month of July will end up being much more close to near normal for most locations within the target area. Although not nearly as plentiful as the 5.00 to as high 9.00+ inches of widespread rain totals found throughout much of central Kansas, southwest and west-central Kansas has experienced significant rains this month with more on the way before the month is over. Thus far, a broad area of 2.00+ inches has fallen over Hamilton, Kearny, and Wichita counties. Even better, large portions of Scott and Lane counties have received 3.00 to 4.00 inches from July 1st to July 28th according to maps provided by the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service website.

Although significant rain has been falling lately, the area has an exceedingly long ways to go before we break the drought. According to the Palmer Drought Severity Index data on the Climate Prediction Center website, many locations need approximately 10.00 inches of additional precipitation right now before we return back to normal. For west-central Kansas, an additional 10.50 inches of precipitation is needed right now while southwest Kansas requires an additional 9.32 inches now. In northwestern Kansas, an additional 12.84 inches is needed. Although the chances of breaking the drought this year is highly unlikely, it is refreshing none the less to see widespread, rather than spotty, rains return to the area this month.

Source:
Climate Prediction Center
Advance Hydrologic Prediction Service

Weather: The week started out warm with periods of clouds during the afternoon and evening Saturday and Sunday. A few weak showers were found over central Kansas and northeast Colorado. By Monday, extreme heating allowed for the development of isolated to scattered small thunderstorms early afternoon followed by a small line of better organized storms by early evening mainly over the southern half of southwestern Kansas. Well organized strong to severe storms were found over central Kansas. Strong to severe storms occurred again over central and eastern Kansas Tuesday with the passage a cold front while western Kansas remained dry west of a Dodge City to Hays line. Warm and humid conditions were found across the area Wednesday. Storms formed over eastern Colorado during the evening and moved east with a few of these storms pushing into extreme southwestern Kansas late. Widespread showers and storms developed Thursday as a cool front and upper level disturbance passed through western Kansas. Isolated large hail occurred along with high winds, very heavy rain, and a few weak tornadoes. Tranquil conditions occurred Friday.

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

July 25th, Program Operations Day #23

Two planes were launched at 3:29 p.m. to investigate a broken line of developing storms stretching from northeastern Wichita County southwest into southwestern Hamilton County. Seeding for hail suppression began at 3:51 near Modoc on an east-northeast traveling storm. Seeding transitioned to rain optimization at 3:57 near Modoc. Seeding for rain continued through 4:40 over northern Scott County while hail suppression occurred over southern Hamilton through 4:50. A developing line of storms quickly formed over Wichita County by 4:42. Seeding transitioned to hail suppression at 4:43 over Scott and Wichita Counties. Seeding was terminated at 5:08 over southern Kearny County as this section of the storm line was moving into Finney County. Meanwhile, seeding continued over northwestern Scott County on a hailing core near Pence. By 5:30, the area of best precipitation was found along a short line from southeastern Logan southwest to around Lydia. Seeding transitioned to rain optimization at 6:14 over Scott County on a rather large cluster of storms slowing traveling east. Rain optimization continued over Lane County through 6:45. At 7:09, seeding transitioned to hail suppression near Dry Lake on a rapidly intensified core along the southern end of the large storm mass over Scott and Lane counties. Meanwhile a new line of storms was forming from southern Scott County west into Kearny and Hamilton Counties. Seeding for hail suppression began near Lakin at 7:32 on a southeast traveling storm. Seeding was terminated at 7:43 over eastern Kearny County. Planes turned for base at 7:51.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program