

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period August 3 – August 9, 2013

General Interest: County rainfall averages for July

County precipitation averages for July were a mixed bag across the target area. However, significant rainfall has made a return to the region as of late with some counties indicating a wonderful short-term moisture surplus. July of 2012 was a vastly different story as the area experienced the most intense period of the historic drought. County average rainfall last July ranged from 31% below normal to 67% below normal. This year, near normal July rainfall occurred across most of the target area with the exception of northern Wichita County where hardly any rainfall occurred. Rain reports from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), www.cocorahs.org, indicate the highest 2013 July county precipitation average was in Scott County with 4.63 inches or 57% above normal for Scott. Following Scott, Hamilton County reported 3.31 inches (10% above normal for Hamilton), Kearny County with 2.94 inches (2% above), Lane County recording 2.66 inches (14% below), and Wichita County with 0.93 inches (68% below).

Weather: The week started out warm and very muggy with perhaps the highest atmospheric moisture content this area has experienced in over a year. Widespread rainstorms broke out over the target area Saturday night and moved east into central Kansas where significant flooding occurred over several counties. Tranquil but muggy conditions persisted again Sunday with clear skies for much of the day turning partly cloudy during the evening. Scattered storms broke out Monday afternoon over mainly west-central Kansas and then along a stationary front near the Kansas/Oklahoma border. These storm systems eventually merged into a broader area of storm activity east and southeast of Dodge City. Strong to severe storms developed again over west-central Kansas and extreme east-central Colorado. These storms tracked through the target area during the late afternoon hours. On Tuesday, severe storms developed over extreme eastern Colorado northwest of Greeley County. The storms there eventually consolidated into a supercell which tracked through Greeley, eastern Hamilton, southwestern Wichita, and Kearny counties before merging with several storms over Grant and Stanton. Additional storms pushed through mainly northwestern and portions of west-central Kansas during the early morning hours Wednesday. By Wednesday evening, a large shield of moderate to heavy rain pushed out of Colorado and into western Kansas. Widespread significant rain occurred. Spotty areas of light rain occurred Thursday along with mostly cloudy skies and cooler temperatures. Cooler weather continued for Friday.

Operations: There two operational days this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred each day. Also, two observation flights were conducted on August 7th.

August 5th, Program Operations Day #27

Two aircraft were launched to Logan County at 3:30 p.m. to investigate a cluster of storms traveling southeast atop a gust front. Radar indicated the gust front would eventually push into primarily Scott and Lane counties by 3:50. Seeding for hail suppression began at 3:57 on a storm over central Logan County traveling southeast. Seeding continued along the Scott/Logan county line through 4:30. Planes continued seeding the storm as it passed through Lane County before terminating seeding at 5:39. The storm continued southeast into Ness and then joined other storms to eventually form a broad area of heavy thunderstorms over south-central Kansas. Planes turned for base at 5:41.

August 6th, Program Operations Day #28 HS

Two aircraft were launched at 3:27 p.m. to begin seeding a large storms traveling southeast through Greeley County. Seeding began at 3:40 over Greeley County. The storm passed into Kearny and Hamilton by 4:26. A small tornado was observed while the storm was crossing out of Greeley and into Kearny and Hamilton counties shortly before 5:00. Seeding continued over eastern Hamilton and northern Kearny through 5:15. The supercell storm continued southeast through northwestern Kearny before turning south about 8-miles northwest of Lakin. While the storm was turning south, the western flank of the cloud near Kendall began building up and stretching further southwest. Planes continued seeding the storm mass until 5:56 p.m. at which time the cloud was exiting the target area. Planes then made an effort to get into the western flank of the storm over extreme southeastern Hamilton but it became evident that by the time they intercepted this portion of the storm it would be exiting the target area also. Planes turned for base at 6:45.

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