

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period August 10 – August 16, 2013

General Interest: Recent rains have finally begun to eat away at the drought here in western Kansas. The latest Drought Monitor dated August 13th indicates that over 50% of the target area has been cleared category 4 (exceptional) drought. Category 4 is considered the most intense drought classification on the Drought Monitor. Instead, most of Kearny, Wichita, Scott and about 50% of Lane now exist in category 3 (extreme) drought. This is big news since the last time the area was dominated by category 3 drought instead of category 4 drought was a full year ago during the week of July 17th, 2012. Although category 3 is still very serious drought, it is none-the-less encouraging news as evidenced by the recent “green-up” that has occurred across the landscape! However, the recent rains may not necessarily be a sign of better things ahead, at least long-term, as we are now back into a more typical August pattern with hot temperatures and a protracted period of mainly dry weather - unfortunately. Category 4 drought still grips areas such as Hamilton, portions of Lane, Finney, Haskell and Seward as well as most of northwestern Kansas.

Weather: The week started out with partly cloudy skies and mild temperatures. A broad line of storms pushed into western Kansas from Oklahoma and Colorado Monday evening. Tranquil conditions prevailed across the target area Tuesday. A few storms were noted over portions of northwest and west-central Kansas along with southeastern Colorado. A round of early morning thunderstorms rolled through the area Wednesday morning. Light rain occurred over portions of Wichita, Scott and Lane counties while higher precipitation occurred over Kearny County during the mature stage of storm cluster. Additional storms formed during the afternoon hours Wednesday. Target area conditions remained tranquil for the remainder of the week. A few storms were noted over northwest and west-central Kansas both Thursday and Friday.

Operations: There were three operational days this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred two days while rain optimization was conducted on the other.

August 12th, Program Operations Day #29

Two aircraft were launched at 8:30 p.m. to investigate storms pushing out of Colorado and extreme southwestern Kansas. Seeding for hail suppression began at 9:54 and ended at 10:00 over northern Hamilton within the convergence zone of two storm lines. Planes then patrolled the convergence area as it crossed into northern Kearny County by 10:20. Planes turned for base at 10:38.

August 13th, Program Operations Day #30

Two aircraft were launched at 12:30 p.m. to investigate a cluster of loosely organized storms over southeastern Gove and northeastern Lane traveling south-southwest. Seeding for rain optimization began over northeastern Lane at 1:01 in a zone of weak storm activity. The plane worked a few selected clouds on and off for about an hour before terminating all seeding at 2:15. The plane turned for base at 2:18.

August 14th, Program Operations Day #31

Two planes were launched at 3:35 p.m. to investigate a stationary storm over southwestern Greeley County. This storm eventually expelled a gust front to the south which began driving the storm south also. A brief period of hail suppression began at 4:19 and ended at 4:23 south of Tribune. Hail suppression began at 4:30 over northwestern Hamilton. Hail suppression continued over central Hamilton through 5:40. Seeding was terminated at 6:08 over extreme southern Hamilton County as the storm was moving into Stanton. Planes turned to base at 6:09.

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