

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period May 18 – May 24, 2013

General Interest: No general interest this week.

Weather: The week started out stormy for some areas of western Kansas. Strong to severe storms broke out Saturday afternoon mainly over the extreme eastern portion of southwestern and west-central Kansas. A sliver of one severe storm extended into eastern Lane before traveling northeast. Other small and brief thunderstorms were noted over central southwest and west-central Kansas. By Sunday, a similar situation developed with strong to severe storms found mainly over central and eastern Kansas. Other small storms did form over western Kansas but were much less potent. However, a small line of weak storms pushed out of southeastern Colorado around sunset. Most of this line remained weak except for a small section over Kearny and Finney counties. Very heavy rain and small hail occurred mainly along a small strip from Lakin to just south of Deerfield. Although most of western Kansas remained dry, significant lines of storms with heavy rain, large hail, and tornadoes ripped across central and eastern Kansas over the weekend. Scattered small storms developed during Monday afternoon mainly over Hamilton and Kearny. The remainder of the week had partly to mostly sunny skies during the day with seasonal temperatures. Overnight, muggy conditions along with overcast skies generally during the early morning hours also occurred.

Operations: There were two operational days this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred one day while rain optimization occurred the other day. Also, there was an observation flight on May 19th.

May 18th, Program Operations Day #4

All aircraft were launched at 2:55 p.m. to investigate developing storms over portions of eastern Lane, Wichita and Kearny counties. Powerful storms were anticipated this day along and to the east of a potent dryline located right along the eastern border of our target area. Although, the Wichita and Kearny storms were positioned within the much drier air on the west of the dryline, it initially appeared these clouds might be capable of briefly developing into small hailers. One plane investigated these storms and found no updrafts and eventually returned to base. The other two aircraft investigated the much stronger storm forming along the dryline over extreme eastern Lane and much of Ness. While the bulk of the storm was located over Ness, the western flank extended into eastern Lane County. Seeding for hail suppression began at 3:34 over eastern Lane and continued there until the entire severe storm pushed into Ness County around 4:30. This storm, along with several others over central Kansas, were super cells with large hail, tornados and torrential rains.

May 20th, Program Operations Day #5

One plane was launched at 1:30 p.m. to investigate scattered small clouds developing over eastern Hamilton and Kearny counties. Seeding for rain optimization began at 2:05 just north of Lakin. Seeding was terminated at 3:05 over Kearny. The plane then patrolled an area of storms over extreme northeast Kearny/northwest Finney before heading for base at 3:47.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program