

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

No. 2013-7

For the period May 25 – May 31, 2013

General Interest: No general interest this week. May precipitation reports will be posted next week.

Weather: This week marked one of the stormiest periods in our area in nearly a year. The week started out hot and humid under mostly sunny skies turning partly cloudy Saturday evening. By Saturday night, a few thunderstorms moved into southwest Kansas from Colorado. A few storms occurred again Monday as a weak cold front pushed through western Kansas. While severe storms occurred over portions of north-central Kansas ahead of a dryline, the storms over our area were mainly pulse-type with short periods of rain and even some brief small hail. On Tuesday, a small line of brief but strong storms developed and faded away over Grant and Haskell counties. Severe storms developed Wednesday during the middle afternoon over southwest and west-central Kansas along a dryline. A few of these storms contained large hail and heavy rainfall. Another line of storms then developed during the early evening Wednesday along a line stretching from Wichita southward to Grant counties. This small line then moved east through western Kansas during the evening to around sunset. On Thursday, scattered weak thunderstorms dotted the area. Although most of the storms were brief, a small cluster over Scott, Lane and Gove persisted for over an hour providing for beneficial rains there. Lastly, partly cloudy skies with occasional sprinkles again dotted the area during the afternoon Friday.

Operations: There were four operational days this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred one day while two days had flights for both rain optimization and hail suppression. Rain optimization seeding only occurred on the final day. Also, there was one observation flight on May 25th and three observation flights on May 28th.

May 25th, Program Operations Day #6

Two aircraft were launched at 9:49 p.m. to intercept a severe storm traveling slowly northeast through Stanton County. Radar indicated this storm would enter the target area around extreme southeast Hamilton and southwest Kearny counties. Seeding for hail suppression was conducted from 10:43 to 10:45 over extreme southwestern Kearny County on the northeastern portion of the storm cluster. Planes then moved to northwestern Stanton to investigate the western portion of the storm cluster pushing out of Colorado. A few minutes of hail suppression was carried out at 12:27 just southeast of Syracuse on a small cell with sustained updraft as radar indicated this storm was capable of producing small hail on the southern side of the storm. Afterwards planes patrolled for awhile over Hamilton and Kearny before returning to base at 1:00 a.m.

May 27th, Program Operations Day #7

Two aircraft were launched at 2:43 p.m. to investigate numerous small storm development over the target area. Seeding for hail suppression began at 4:30 over extreme southwestern Lane/northeastern Scott counties. Also, seeding for rain optimization began at 4:30 north of Kendall. Seeding was terminated at 4:45 over northwestern Kearny as the cloud was entering the dissipation stage. Meanwhile, hail

suppression continued on the strong to borderline severe storm over southwestern Lane. At 5:31, seeding for hail suppression began over extreme northern Finney on another strong to borderline severe storm. Seeding stopped over both Lane and Finney at 5:43. Radar indicated the storms had fallen below the hail threshold. Planes returned to base at 6:27.

May 29th, Program Operation Day #8 RA/HS

The day started out warm and muggy with the potential for severe storms over west-central and southwest Kansas during the early afternoon. The main hazards this day were large hail and the potential for a few tornadoes. All planes were launched at 2:25 p.m. to investigate scattered storm development across the area. Seeding for hail suppression began at 3:05 near Friend and continued northeast as this storm grew severe in Scott County. Meanwhile, one aircraft investigated another storm developing over Hamilton. However, the Hamilton storm collapsed quickly. The plane then moved to aid in seeding efforts over Scott County. Updrafts were rather spotty on these storms which is rather unusual given the high storm intensity. One plane broke off the Scott County storm cluster at 3:56 to investigate another rapidly developing storm near Deerfield. Seeding for hail suppression on the Deerfield storm began at 4:03. The two aircraft working over Scott County then moved to aid in seeding efforts on the storm now northeast of Deerfield by 4:30. Seeding continued on the storm over southern Scott until the spotty updrafts died out at 4:53. Two planes then returned to base while the third aircraft moved to Wichita County near Lydia to investigate a developing storm there. After arriving at the Lydia cell, no updrafts were found. Shortly thereafter, the radar indicated this storm was fading away. The plane returned to base at 5:30.

All planes were launched at 5:45 towards a rapidly developing line of strong storms extending from 5-miles west of Lakin north to around Leoti. The Lakin plane was unable to takeoff due to the gust front associated with this line nearing the airport. However, two planes began hail suppression near Leoti at 6:04. By 7:05, the storms extended from Scott County southward to southeastern Kearny. Seeding continued on the portion of the line over eastern Scott and western Lane through 8:00. The southern portion the line over southern Kearny produced a few small tornadoes. Due to extremely poor visibility on the western side of the line, the Lakin plane was prevented from taking off. Seeding transitioned to rain optimization over Lane County at 8:46. The cells over Lane then exited the target area at 8:55 at which time seeding stopped with the planes turning for base.

May 30th, Program Operations Day #9

One plane was launched at 12:25 p.m. to investigate scattered small storms developing over Kearny County. Radar indicated these storms were low-topped with the potential for moderate rainfall. However, the flight was canceled as this cloud was already fading away. One plane was launched again at 1:50 to investigate a small storm traveling through Scott County. A period of rainfall optimization commenced at 2:16 p.m. The storm traveled east through northeastern Scott and northern Lane before eventually exiting the target area at 2:32. The plane then returned to base.

Acknowledgement: The Western Kansas Weather Modification Program is funded, in part, through the State Water Plan, administered by the Kansas Water Office.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program

[Delete](#) [Reply](#) [Reply to All](#) [Forward](#) [Move](#) [Spam](#) [Actions](#) [Next](#) [Previous](#)