

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period June 7 – June 13, 2014

General Interest: Decent rains as of late have had an impact on the drought. It appears that central Kansas has benefited the most with a significant easing of drought across roughly fifty percent of central Kansas counties. Some lessening of drought severity has occurred across northwest, west-central, and southwest Kansas with the most easing over Hamilton, Greeley, Thomas, Lane and Gove. Hopefully this positive precipitation trend will continue through the rest of June and July as this is historically our two wettest months of the year.

Precipitation estimates for the first half of June are impressive for most areas across western Kansas. However, significant rains did not fall everywhere as indicated in the NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service map. Morton and Stevens counties in southwestern Kansas continued a strong moisture deficit for the first half of the month with only 50% to 90% of normal precipitation. Most areas in western Kansas received 110% to 200% of normal for the first half of the month. Locally, northern Kearny and northern Lane are the wettest with estimates running in the 300% to 400% of normal rainfall. Eastern Trego, western Ellis, and southwestern Kiowa counties have really loaded up the totals with these areas indicating as much as ten to fifteen inches recorded primarily over the past seven days.

Sources:

NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service
U.S. Drought Monitor

Weather: Scattered light rain with a few rumbles of thunder occurred across the area Saturday afternoon and evening. By Sunday, a widespread beneficial rain event occurred as a non-severe squall-line pushed out of eastern Colorado into western Kansas during the evening. Many locations recorded around a half inch or more. The line extended from northern Nebraska south to around Amarillo, Texas at 9:30 p.m. A small line of strong to severe storms pushed from Colorado into mainly west-central Kansas early Wednesday evening. Tranquil conditions with pleasant temperatures rounded out the week.

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

June 11th, Observation

Two aircraft were launched at 4:50 p.m. to investigate a developing storm along the Greeley/Wichita border. Radar indicated this storm was nearly stationary. At 4:55, a rope tornado was spotted on the western flank of this storm in eastern Greeley. By 5:20, the storm split with the southern portion fading away shortly after the tornado occurred while the northern half traveled north-northwest into Logan County. The planes patrolled the cloud for about a half hour before turning to base at 5:40. No seeding was performed on this cloud as it did not pose a hail threat to the target area.

June 11th Program Operations Day #6

Two aircraft were launched at 7:25 p.m. to investigate a line of strong to severe storms traveling southeast through Greeley, Wichita, Wallace and Logan. The planes investigated several storms over western Kearny, eastern Wichita and northwestern Scott through 7:50. A brief period of seeding for hail suppression occurred over central Kearny beginning at 7:52. Hail suppression also began at 7:58 over northwestern Scott County and continued through 8:20 over all of eastern Scott and western Lane. By 8:36, seeding was terminated over extreme eastern Lane as the lead edge of the line pushed into Ness County.

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