

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period May 2 – May 8, 2015

General Interest: County rainfall averages for April

County precipitation averages for April show a mixed bag for target area counties. April of 2014 showed a strong moisture deficit. For the month, there were no significant daily rains for the first half as nearly all the precipitation came in the second half. Fortunately, an increase in the moisture pattern has continued into May.

Precipitation reports from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), www.cocorahs.org, indicate the highest 2015 April county precipitation average was in Scott County with 2.57 inches or 32% above normal for Scott while Kearny County reported 1.30 inches or 17% below normal. The report for Lane was 0.67 inches or 68% below normal.

Weather: The period started out very warm with mostly sunny conditions during the early afternoons Saturday and Sunday. A few sprinkles crept into the area Saturday evening late. Numerous surface boundaries along with extremely warm daytime highs lead to thunderstorms breaking out across the area on Sunday and Monday. The slow movement of the storms on Monday produced some flooding particularly over northern Kearny. Off and on drizzle and rain showers occurred throughout the day Tuesday. A few storms broke out during late afternoon Wednesday across western Kansas while a localized outbreak of tornadoes occurred across central Kansas. Scattered thunderstorms developed again Thursday mainly east of the area during the afternoon while a second round came after sunset from the west. Scattered weak storms pushed through again Friday evening.

Operations: There were two seeding days this week. Two days of observation occurred on the 7th and 8th.

May 3rd, Program Operations Day #5

Two planes were launched at 5:42 p.m. with one plane heading to Lydia to check a storm there while the other plane headed to survey a cluster of small storms over northeastern Stanton County. The patrol over southwestern Kearny was cancelled at 6:01. The plane stationed there then traveled towards southeastern Wichita County also. Seeding for hail suppression began at 6:09 over extreme southeastern Wichita County. Seeding continued as the storm slowly moved east into southeast Scott County. A gust front impacted the cloud at 6:56 over southeastern Scott which for a brief time had intensified the storm. However, after the gust front exited the area, the storm fell below the hail limit. Seeding was terminated at 7:01.

May 4th, Program Operations Day #6

One plane was launched at 3:05 p.m. to investigate a small storm over southeastern Lane County. A second plane was launched at 3:16. Seeding began at 3:34 over eastern Lane County. Meanwhile, seeding also commenced over extreme western Kearny at 3:36. Storm motion was north-northeast at 10 miles-per-hour. Seeding continued on strong storms over western Lane/eastern Scott and northern Kearny through 4:00. Seeding was terminated at 5:00 over northern Kearny. Seeding was also terminated over northern Lane at 5:15. Both planes turned for base at 5:20.

The northern Kearny storm continued creeping east leaving behind a path of heavy rain with some flooding as radar storm total precipitation reached 4.00 inches 16-miles north of Lakin.

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