

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No. 2015-08

For the period June 6 – June 12, 2015

General Interest: Early predictions are that the current El Nino stands a 90% chance it will last through fall in the northern Hemisphere while an 85% chance exists it will continue on through winter according to the Climate Prediction Center. Further, the current forecast is hedging for a strong event comparable to the historic El Nino's of 1982-1983 and 1997-1998. Independent of the drought erasing rainfall we have experienced thus far this late spring and early summer, a strong El Nino should continue to provide enough precipitation to the area over the course of the rest of the year resulting in an abnormally wet 2015.

Weather: The week started out hot for all locations during the afternoon followed by partly cloudy skies by early evening and scattered strong to severe storms mainly over eastern Colorado and northwest Kansas during the evening and overnight Saturday. A cold front passed through and became situated along the Oklahoma border by Sunday afternoon. The warm weather continued through Wednesday along with a few light thunderstorms passing over on Wednesday evening. A stronger cold front dropped in Thursday morning. Temperatures maxed out in the 80's Thursday along with some storms mainly over extreme southwest Kansas Thursday evening. Tranquil conditions occurred Friday.

Operations: There was one operational day this week.

June 6th, Program Operations Day #11

One plane was launched at 2:09 p.m. to investigate an isolated area of storms over northern Grant traveling northeast. A second plane was launched at 2:44 to another storm just north of Scott City that ended up fizzling out rather quickly. A brief period of seeding for hail suppression lasted from 2:44 to 2:51 over southern Kearny. The planes then patrolled storms over southwestern and central Finney before turning for base at 4:10.

June 11th, Observation Day

Two planes were launched at 6:46 to intercept a supercell thunderstorm traveling southeast out of Colorado towards Kearny County radar indicated substantial hail falling from this cloud along with ground reports of 2.50 inch hail covering the ground just west of Holly Colorado. Upon crossing the Kansas/Colorado border, the supercell collapsed. As a result of storm decay, the planes moved toward southern Hamilton to investigate additional storms there. The planes patrolled Hamilton and a few storms over Stanton before turning for base at 8:55.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
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