

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period July 18 – July 24, 2015

General Interest: Despite a dry to perhaps very dry June, the year-to-date precipitation accumulation across the majority of the target area is above normal. There are a few areas, mainly around Deerfield, where the total is still slightly below the amount expected for the period. However, it is refreshing to know that for the first time in several years, western Kansas is neither showing a significant precipitation deficit nor the driest portion of the state as a percentage of normal. A rather vast area of central Kansas shows a significant moisture deficit as it relates to a percentage of normal with values ranging from 50% to 90% of normal.

The southwest Kansas forecast total precipitation out to August 2nd shows around 0.75 inches. Totals are a bit higher in extreme southwestern Kansas where 1.00+ inches can be expected according to the Weather Prediction Center.

Weather: Mid summer conditions prevailed throughout the week with hot daytime highs with muggy overnights. A few weak storms were noted particularly during the evenings and overnight due to weak upper disturbances rotating through the upper level ridge.

Operations: There was one seeding day this week.

July 19th, Program Operations Day #18

One plane was launched at 12:50 a.m. to investigate a storm just northeast of Leoti traveling towards Scott County. Radar showed a line of storms extending from Nebraska south to Selkirk being driven east by a large gust front. Although the line was primarily composed of heavy rain, random brief instances of hail production would occur. Seeding for hail suppression began at 1:09 over northwestern Scott. Seeding continued through 1:30 near Scott State Lake. Seeding had stopped by 1:37 over Scott. The plane patrolled the storm as it moved east and weakened over eastern Scott and then turned for base at 2:20.

Two planes were launched at 7:28 p.m. to begin seeding a complex of extremely strong storms traveling southeast through Greeley and Wichita counties. Radar indicated these storms had the potential to produce baseball size hail along with 70 mph winds. Seeding for hail suppression began at 7:00 over western Wichita County while seeding commenced at 8:01 over western Kearny. Seeding continued through 9:00 across a broad swath of severe storms stretching from northern Scott southwest through southern Kearny. At 9:25, seeding became confined to a severe section of the line near Dry Lake in southeastern Scott County. The Dry Lake storm de-intensified around 9:35 at which time seeding stopped and the planes turned for base.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program