

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period August 15 – August 21, 2015

General Interest: Although the number of seeding days this year is below where we should be for this time of year, the seeding day total per county is actually much higher in terms of target area size of previous years. The historical average number of participating counties per year over 40-years was 12 participating counties per year. Also, the average number of seeding days per year over the same period was 51 seeding days. This yields about four seeding days per year for each participating county in the program, Being how our target area is so small this year, the number of seeding days per participating county totals seven seeding days or 75% more seeding days per county than the historical average. Although imperfect, this metric is about the only reasonably useful metric we can use to compare or current small target area to the traditionally large target areas of years past. Simply stated, there has been no drop off of seeding days this year or last year relative to the target area size. In fact, we have likely been much more aggressive in seeding than years past relative to target area size as the data above suggests.

Total rainfall for the previous week was fairly impressive with mostly locations seeding around or above 1.00 inches. Locally, Hamilton County faired the best with a weekly average of about 2.50 inches with even much higher amounts north of Coolidge receiving upwards of 4.50 inches. Some flooding occurred due to the excessive rainfall there.

According to the Weather Prediction Center, the southwest and west-central Kansas forecast total precipitation out to August 30th, shows a substantially lower forecast accumulation of rainfall for about everywhere west of a north to south line through Dodge City. Totals up to about 0.25 inches can be expected for locations along the Colorado border while up to 0.50 inches may occur over Wichita, Kearny, Scott, Lane, Finney and Grant. With the area residing in a surface ridge of high pressure and weak winds aloft, no severe is anticipated this week but rather a small to modest chance of some storms late Wednesday and Thursday as a weak upper disturbance brushes the area.

Weather: The week started out warm and sultry as the area continued to experience unusually humid surface conditions. A strong cold front slipped into western Nebraska, northeast Colorado and northwest Kansas by late Sunday evening. Thunderstorms developed, some severe, along and near the front by Sunday afternoon and persisted over mainly western portions of western Kansas into the nighttime hours. The cold front finally pushed into the area Tuesday. A few showers and isolated storms occurred along and ahead of the front. Tranquil conditions prevailed through the remainder of the week along with a gradual warming trend.

Operations: No seeding days this week.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program