

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period June 4 – June 10, 2016

General Interest: NOAA's 2016 summer outlook calls for near normal temperatures for Kansas, Nebraska and most of South Dakota while the rest of the United States is expected to average above normal temperatures. As for precipitation, Kansas has a 30%-40% chance of seeing above average precipitation while northwestern Kansas stands a 40%-50% chance of above average precipitation. The outlook is valid during the June through August period.

The 7-day precipitation forecast, valid June 12 to June 19, calls for the possibility of significant precipitation accumulation at least early in the week. Just about anywhere across western Kansas can expect 0.75 inches while much higher concentrations, 1.25 to 2.00 inches, are possible within the western half of western Kansas. Most of this rain will come during June 12 and June 13 as an upper level storm system pushes through. Clear and very hot conditions are expected from Tuesday through Saturday as high pressure stalls in the area resulting in a heat wave with temperatures in the upper 90's to slightly over 100 degrees.

Weather: Unseasonably warm and sunny conditions prevailed during the start of the week. By Monday, a weak surface boundary was located across western Kansas. A few showers and thunderstorms formed along and ahead of the boundary by late day. Tuesday through Wednesday evening was dry with hot daytime highs and mostly clear nights except near the Colorado border where some storm activity occurred during the late evenings and early night. Scattered storms broke out Thursday afternoon due to strong heating and a surface boundary draped across western Kansas.

Operations: There were two operational days this week.

June 6, Program Operations Day #7

One plane was dispatched at 5:11 p.m. to investigate a small cluster of weak to moderate thunderstorms over eastern Wichita County. Radar indicated that, at times, the cluster would produce brief periods of small hail and gusty winds. A brief period of hail suppression began 5:42 over southwestern Scott County. Seeding then transitioned to rain optimization at 5:53 near Scott City on a second small storm. Rain optimization continued over 6:58 over Lane County. All seeding stopped at 7:31 over Lane. The plane patrolled the area for awhile before turning for base at 7:41.

June 9, Program Operations Day #8

One plane was launched at 5:09 p.m. to begin seeding on a developing storm near Dighton. A second plane was dispatched at 5:23 to Lane also. Hail suppression began at 5:44 over northern Lane. Hail suppression seeding also began at 5:57 3-miles south of Scott City airport. Seeding continued through 7:00 over Scott and Lane counties as multiple storms began to converge into one storm mass. All seeding stopped by 7:30 over northern Lane as the storms moved into Gove County.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program