

## WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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### WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No. 2016-11

For the period June 25 – July 1, 2016

#### **General Interest:** County rainfall averages for June

County precipitation averages for June indicate a rainfall surplus for one county while the other recorded a deficit. Unseasonably warm temperatures combined with less than normal rainfall resulted in a fairly significant depletion of topsoil moisture during the first half of June for a large portion of western Kansas. The sky finally opened up during the last week of the month as a series of storm systems passed through providing for some short-term relief to what has otherwise been a somewhat dry couple of months. Rain reports from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org), indicate the highest 2016 June county precipitation average was in Lane County with 4.33 inches or 55% above normal for Lane. Scott County reported 2.83 inches or 8% below normal. Across the state, significant precipitation deficits were reported for all quadrants except for southwest Kansas where a large precipitation monthly surplus was realized, particularly in Grant, Haskell, Seward, Morton and Gray counties where the rain totals were nearly double the monthly average.

Although this week will feature some small chances for thunderstorms, the prospects for significant rain appear to be lacking as the next seven days, July 5 – 12, show rain accumulations of only 0.25 to 0.50 inches across western Kansas. Temperatures will climb to slightly above seasonal averages for the first few days of the week and then cool down due the passage of a cold front around Friday.

**Weather:** Heating of the day combine with a cold front over western Kansas led to thunderstorm development during the afternoon on Saturday. Fair weather was noted Sunday. Strong heating combined with the passage of another upper level disturbance lead to strong to severe storms Monday afternoon from northeast Colorado southeast into western Kansas. Strong winds and medium size hail were the primary threats. The active weather pattern continued Tuesday night as a widespread cluster of storms blasted through the region. This system was particularly noted for extremely high winds as is moved through western Nebraska. The winds had subsided into the 60-70 mph range by the time in crossed into Kansas and then into Oklahoma around daybreak Wednesday. Another storm cluster pushed through southwest Kansas Wednesday night. The late evening and nightly rains continued again Thursday and Friday.

**Operations:** There was one operational day this week. Two observations flights occurred June 17.

#### **June 25, Program Operations Day #10**

Two planes were launched at 4:10 p.m. to investigate developing storms along a northeast to southwest cold front stretching through western Kansas. Hail suppression seeding began at 5:00 over southwestern Scott for a few minutes. The planes then moved to northern Lane/northeastern Scott to seed storms there. All seeding became confined to Lane County by 5:27. Seeding was terminated at 6:14 over Lane as the storms were moving out of the area. Planes turned for base at 6:20.

#### **June 27, Program Operations Day #11**

Two planes were launched at 4:45 p.m. to a cluster of developing storms just northwest of Pence in southern Logan County. Aside from this area of development, several storms were moving toward the target area from the northwest. Seeding for hail suppression began at 5:26 over northwestern Scott County. Seeding became confined to western and southern Scott County by 6:15 as a gust front was passing through the area and creating additional storms. Aided by a southward moving gust front, the storms began slowly passing into Finney by 6:45 with seeding being terminated shortly thereafter.

**Walter Geiger, Meteorologist**  
**Western Kansas Weather Modification Program**