

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period July 2 – July 8, 2016

Corrected to add seeding day July 7

General Interest: A bit more than half of the seeding season is now finished. Seeding days are slightly more than anticipated at 13 days which, according to historical averages with respect to target area size, is roughly two days over normal for this time of year. I was anticipating about 20 days of seeding for 2016. For the first half of the year, the target area is showing a precipitation surplus of about 3.50 – 4.00 inches more than would be expected. For western Kansas in general, over 60% of the land area is showing a surplus of at least 2.00 inches with a large swath of southwest Kansas showing the greatest surplus at 4.00 to 6.00 inches. Eastern Kansas is generally near normal to slightly below normal except in southeast Kansas where a significant deficit is noted.

Although storm chances exist during the bulk of the week, these chances are small and are generally for singular small storms with light rain potential for a short duration. As a result, forecast precipitation for the period July 11 – 17 looks to be generally light with only 0.10 to 0.45 inches expected over western Kansas. The least amount, 0.10 – 0.25 inches, is expected over extreme southwest Kansas.

Weather: The week started out with stormy conditions during Saturday night as another widespread cluster of storms swept through the area. Warm and humid conditions prevailed Sunday and Independence Day across the area while some storms were noted over Colorado Monday night. A small cluster of severe storms pushed through portions of western Kansas Tuesday night. Another round of storms rolled through portions of western Kansas again Thursday evening and night. Large hail and strong winds were reported with this activity over northwestern Kansas and portions of west-central Kansas. The remainder of the week was hot and dry.

Operations: There were two operational days this week.

July 5. Program Operations Day #12

Two planes were launched at 10:18 p.m. to investigate a cluster of severe storms just north of the target area which were slowly pushing southeast. A brief period of seeding was carried out from 11:00 to 11:11. Additional seeding was hampered due to cloud geometry and lack of cloud base updraft. The storm passed into Ness County by 11:23 at which time the planes returned to base.

July 7th, Program Operations Day #13

Two planes were launched at 10:04 p.m. to investigate a cluster of severe storms traveling south through northeastern Logan/northern Gove counties. Seeding for hail suppression began at 10:50 about 14-miles southeast of Gove City. Radar indicated that aside from this storm cluster, another storm over northern Logan was also traveling towards the target area. As the storms continued moving south, they began to de-intensify due to considerable separation from the gust front which was already well into Lane County. All seeding stopped at 11:14. The storms ended up fading away by around 11:30 over southern Gove as the gust front was simply too far out ahead of the storm and no longer able to provide sufficient lift to sustain storm updrafts. Planes turned for base at 11:38.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program