

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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General Interest: The odds are exceptionally high, currently about 99%, that 2016 will be the hottest year globally on record. This prognostication was issued after NASA completed their midyear climate analysis for the months January – June. If the 2016 prediction of warmest year holds true, this unwelcome distinction will surpass 2015 which currently holds the official record. Each of the first six months of 2016 was hotter than any of those same months in the historical record by a considerable margin. NASA contributes some of the excess heat to the effects of a dissipating El Nino, at least at the beginning of the year, and the continued rapid buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The warming effects are most notable in the arctic as five of the first six months of the year have set records for the least amount of monthly sea-ice since satellite records began. The results of the melting have allowed for the previously frozen tundra landscape to become a new ecosystem of growing vegetation.

We are now beginning to pull out of our second heat wave of the year and will likely transition back to where we historically reside for this time of year which is in the lower 90's. The high pressure aloft has moved south enough to allow for precipitation chances to increase in our region. Some scattered storms developed Saturday over portions of the area and this trend will be possible each day through the remainder of the week. Mid summer storms are generally sub-severe with respect to hail and tornado but high wind chances increase considerably due to very high cloud bases. The latest 7-day precipitation forecast valid July 24 – 30 calls for 0.50 to 1.25 inches of precipitation over southwest, central and eastern Kansas, which is where the most favorable storm track resides at least for this week. Locally, this track corresponds to the position of a stalled cold front and east-southeast flow aloft pushing storms out of eastern Colorado into southwest Kansas. Considerably lower accumulations are forecast for northwest Kansas.

Weather: With high pressure aloft anchored over the region, well above average temperatures and sunny conditions prevailed in the area for most of the week except for Friday when a few low-end storms pushed through the region during the morning hours.

Operations: There were no operational days this week.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
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