

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period August 6 – August 12, 2016

General Interest: The year-to-date temperature records from the Garden City Experiment Station indicate that we are running a fever this year! The average maximum daytime temperature for the year is 2.4 degrees higher than normal for the period January 1st to August 13th. The daytime high averaged over the entire year so far is 72.8 while the normal is 70.4. 2.4 degrees may not sound like a much but it's a significant amount climatologically speaking. A month-by-month look at the temperature shift shows the bulk of the elevated temperatures came during the months of February and March when the mercury climbed 8.7 degrees above normal for February and 7.7 degrees higher than normal for March. January, April and June were higher than normal by 2.4, 0.8 and 3.5 respectively. In contrast, May, July and the first 13-days of August have been 2.0, 0.5 and 1.8 degrees below normal respectively. We have had two summertime excessive heat waves which pushed temperatures 8-10 degrees above the normal range for nearly a week each time but we have also had two decent cold fronts this summer which helped to temper the monthly high temperature averages during May and August. While we generally enjoy, in terms of comfort, elevated temperatures during the winter and early spring months, it could be a problem long-term as far as heat moderation especially during the summer months. It will be interesting to see what the final global temperature average will be this year as most predictions indicate this could end up being the hottest year on record globally.

Source data: NWS, Dodge City
w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=ddc

The 7-day forecast precipitation map valid for the period August 15 – 22 indicate that area stands to receive a rather paltry 0.10 – 0.25 inches across the entire area while the eastern portion of Kansas looks to receive just slightly more at 0.50-0.75 inches. Temperatures will be about normal from Monday through Thursday while a cold front will push highs down to the low 80's next Saturday. Our best shot at rain comes with the passage of the front on Friday.

Weather: The week started out rather warm with daytime highs in the mid to upper 90's with mostly sunny skies. A cold front passed through the second half of the week providing for some relief. Some overnight storm activity did occur primarily over northwest and southwest Kansas resulting in 0.25 inches to a spotty 0.75 inches of 7-day total rainfall.

Operations: There were no operational days this week.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program