

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period August 13 – August 19, 2016

General Interest: July 2016 turned out to be the hottest month of any month in recorded history according to an analysis of global temperature records by NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Modern record-keeping began in 1880. This year, July beat out previous records for warmest July by 0.01 degrees which occurred in 2015, 2011 and 2009. Aside from a record warmest July, the streak of warmest individual months continues to grow as the previous ten months going back to October 2015 have recorded the warmest monthly high temperatures. El Nino was active for a portion of the ten-month period and contributed to some of the record warmth particularly during late 2015 and winter of 2015/2016 along with the continued build-up of atmospheric greenhouse gas.

A shot at some widespread accumulating precipitation may occur this week. The latest 7-day precipitation forecast valid August 21 – 28 calls for the possibility of 0.25 – 0.50 inches over extreme western Kansas while the eastern zones of western Kansas may receive 0.50 – 1.00 inches. The chance of storms starts Monday evening and then into Tuesday when some severe weather might occur particularly over the eastern portion of western Kansas. A strong cold front looks to blast through Wednesday providing for fall temperatures and widespread periodic light to moderate rains through the weekend.

Weather: A typical August weather pattern dominated western Kansas for most of the week with warm temperatures and mostly sunny conditions along with mostly clear nights. By Friday, a cold front swept through during the early morning hours providing for a few scattered showers and some isolated and very brief strong storms mainly over west-central and northwest Kansas. Behind the front, cooler weather settled into the region by Friday afternoon while thunderstorms pushed through central and eastern Kansas Friday evening ahead of the cold front. Considerably cooler air moved in on Saturday giving us a brief taste of autumn weather.

Operations: There were no operational days this week.

**Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
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