

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period July 31 – August 7, 2015

General Interest: A fairly aggressive chance for elevated precipitation through the early part of 2016 is still in the long-term forecast according to outlooks provided by the Climate Prediction Center. El Nino conditions are now expected to persist into the early spring of 2016 which factors into the optimism expressed in the continuation of a slightly wet long-term weather pattern. Western Kansas stands at least a 30% chance of above normal precipitation out to May of 2016 while the period January – March of 2016 stands a 40% chance of above normal precipitation. The optimism of these long-term prognostications is as robust as this area has seen in at least a decade. Along with an increased chance of precipitation, a slightly cooler fall is expected as western Kansas stands a 30% chance of below normal temperatures through December.

The southwest and west-central Kansas forecast total precipitation out to August 16th, shows an impressive accumulation of precipitation ranging from 1.75 to 2.00 inches forecast for Morton and Stanton counties to 1.00 to 1.75 inches for most areas with the target area. At least for this week, west-central and southwest Kansas is the likely favorite for the most accumulated precipitation of anywhere within Kansas.

Weather: The week started out hot and muggy with localized areas of fog in the early mornings turning partly sunny and hot by afternoon. A few small storms were noted over extreme southwest Kansas Saturday night and then over northwest Kansas Sunday evening. A Few showers and thunderstorms occurred Monday mainly over northwest and extreme southwest Kansas during the late afternoon into early night. Daytime heating combined with an upper disturbance and optimally oriented gust fronts lead to “high-end” supercell storms over Thomas, Gove, Lane, Hodgeman and Finney counties during Monday evening. These supercells produced large hail of around 1.00 to 2.00 inch diameter across a broad swath of the storm track. Hot and sticky conditions prevailed through Friday afternoon followed by a few thunderstorms primarily over the northern half of Kansas Friday evening.

Operations: There was one seeding day this week.

August 4th, Program Operations Day #20

Two aircraft were launched at 4:25 p.m. to investigate a grouping of strong to severe storms over Gove County traveling southeast. Seeding for hail suppression began at 5:05 over extreme southern Gove/northern Lane. Both planes continued heavy seeding over northern Lane through 5:30. The storm neared Dighton by 5:44. One plane had to return to base at 6:11 as it had exhausted seeding agent on the storm near Dighton. The second plane exhausted seeding agent for cloud-top seeding at 6:10 forcing the plane to move to cloud-base and resume seeding on a second severe storm traveling southeast through western Lane. By 6:24, heavy seeding was ongoing on the second storm which was just northwest of Dighton. Seeding was terminated at 6:57 as the storm was exiting the target area.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program