

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period August 8 – August 14, 2015

General Interest: A few years ago, the National Weather Service in Dodge City prepared some very interesting data on the Climatology of hail, particularly large hail, events in the United States with a focus on the southwest Kansas area. The amount of information and findings are fairly lengthy to be displayed in this newsletter but very interesting. For those who would like to read these findings please insert the following link into your internet browser, the information is in MS Word format: www.crh.noaa.gov/Image/ddc/News/hail50.docx

According to the Weather Prediction Center, the southwest and west-central Kansas forecast total precipitation out to August 23rd, shows a modest accumulation of rainfall over mainly the Kansas/Colorado border areas of about 0.50 to 0.75 inches from storm chances due to a cold front passage expected during the early portion of the week. Lower amounts are anticipated over the eastern portions of western Kansas where generally less than a half inch might occur for the period. Personally, I suspect there will be localized areas where perhaps an inch or more will result during the first half of the week just about anywhere west of a Dodge City to Hill City line as we have a fair chance of severe weather across western Kansas with the potential for heavy rain under any of the strong to severe storms.

Weather: The week started out with the continuation of hot and muggy conditions. Mostly sunny skies turned mostly cloudy as scattered showers and storms, some severe, occurred Saturday evening across the area. Tranquil but sultry conditions prevailed Sunday. Thunderstorms developed Tuesday night/Wednesday morning over mainly southwest Kansas. Due to the rather slow movement and ample atmospheric moisture, significant rainfall accumulated over portions of the area. Cooler but muggy conditions prevailed Wednesday and Thursday with cloudy to partly cloudy mornings followed by clear during the afternoons. Another round of thunderstorms occurred early Thursday morning over mainly eastern portions of western Kansas. Much like the night before some areas received significant rain accumulation. More storms developed again Thursday night/Friday morning.

Operations: There was one seeding day this week.

August 8th, Program Operations Day #21

Two aircraft were launched at 5:00 p.m. to investigate a developing line of storms extending from northern Grant County west into Stanton. Radar indicated these early storms were primarily pulse-type but would likely increase into a more sustainable squall-line type system. A brief period of seeding for hail suppression lasted from 5:50 to 5:55 over extreme northeastern Stanton County. Seeding for hail suppression began at 6:09 over western Finney County on storms traveling northeast there. Seeding continued over western Finney and northeastern Kearny through 6:30. Seeding over Kearny was terminated completely at 6:46. The planes patrolled several storms over Kearny through 7:04 for any suitable seeding conditions but found none. The planes turned for base at 7:04.

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