

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period September 1 – September 7, 2012

General Interest: The latest on the drought still indicates roughly 80% of the United States suffering from dry conditions to various stages of drought. One month ago, the Drought Monitor showed exceptional drought (the most severe classification of drought) primarily over western portions of Kansas and Oklahoma as well as Arkansas, Missouri, Ohio and Georgia. This week, the locations of exceptional drought have changed some due in large part to the remains of hurricane Isaac tracking through drought affected areas. Significant rains lessened drought over Ohio, Missouri and Arkansas where exceptional drought there covers only small portions of those states now. The expansion of exceptional drought has been most rapid over Nebraska. One month ago only 3.5% of Nebraska was in exceptional drought compared to 70.5% today. In Kansas, overall drought coverage has remained the same over the past month at 100%. However, exceptional drought has spread from 39.5% of Kansas a month ago to 60.5% today. The latest Drought Outlook calls for no change in drought conditions for our area through November 30th. There may be some distant optimism concerning the very long-term conditions for our area. The latest long-term predictions show a small probability, 33%, for above average precipitation to occur during the months of May through August in 2013 for Kansas. It is important to realize that these predictions are for periods very many months out and will likely change, either for better or worse, come next year.

Source:

U.S. Drought Monitor
Climate Prediction Center

Weather: Tranquil but very warm conditions dominated the weather pattern for the first half of the week. By Thursday, a surface trough became established across western Kansas. Scattered storms broke out along and ahead of the surface trough by peak heating on Thursday and traveled southeast into central Kansas shortly after sundown. While most locations received little to no precipitation, a few locations experienced severe storms with high wind and hail particularly across extreme northeastern Lane County. Cooler and cloudy conditions prevailed on Friday.

Operations: There was one operation day this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred that day.

September 6th, Program Operations Day #18

Two aircraft were launched at 3:35 p.m. to investigate rapid storm development occurring over southern Logan and western Gove traveling east-southeast. Seeding for hail suppression began at 4:10 p.m. over extreme southern Logan County. The storm passed into northern Lane County by 5:15. Seeding stopped at 5:21 over northeastern Lane as the storm was nearing the eastern extent of the target area. Reports indicate the storm contained a narrow strip of 1-inch hail through portions of extreme northeastern Lane. The storm continued through Ness and eventually reached central Kansas by 8:30.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program