

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period May 26 – June 1, 2012

General Interest: County rainfall averages for May

County precipitation averages for May indicate an enormous moisture deficit for all target area counties. Although May totals last year were disastrously low also, the amounts a year ago were still double or more. Dry conditions are returning rapidly across roughly 80% of Kansas. Rain reports from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), www.cocorahs.org, indicate the highest 2012 May county precipitation average was in Hamilton County with 0.51 inches or 79% below normal for Hamilton. Following Hamilton, Kearny County reported 0.34 inches (89% below normal for Kearny), Lane County with 0.26 inches (92% below), Wichita County recording 0.25 inches (91% below), and Scott County with 0.25 inches (92% below).

Weather: Numerous brief storms occurred Saturday. The main threat from these was high winds. However, a few would occasionally develop some smaller hail. Tranquil conditions prevailed over most of western Kansas from Sunday through Tuesday. Very high instability and marginal moisture was in place by Wednesday afternoon. Although widespread severe weather was anticipated, only scattered severe weather broke out over a portion of western Kansas while a much larger area of storms occurred across central Kansas. Cooler weather prevailed through Friday.

Operations: There were two operational days this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred each day.

May 26th, Program Operations Day #5

Two planes were launched at 8:50 p.m. to investigate a storm traveling northeast out of Colorado and into western Hamilton County. Seeding for hail suppression began at 9:23 over northern Hamilton on weak storm inflows. All seeding stopped at 10:00 over northern Kearny and southern Wichita counties. Radar showed the entire line of storms now stretching from Logan County south into Oklahoma, had become a moderate to light rain event with pockets of heavy rain and high winds.

May 30th, Program Operations Day #6

All WKWMP aircraft were launched at 4:35 p.m. to investigate developing storms over Lane County. Additional storms were also traveling southeast out of northwest Kansas and would eventually impact southwest Kansas. The Lane County clouds turned out to be very short-lived and faded away at about the same time as the planes were becoming airborne. Instead, aircraft headed to eastern Greeley to investigate other approaching storms. Seeding for hail suppression began at 5:19 over northwestern Wichita County. The storms passed over central Wichita at 5:45 and then into central Scott County by 6:35. All seeding stopped on the storm line at 6:50 over eastern Scott and extreme northwestern Lane. Planes then moved to northern Kearny and performed a very brief period of seeding on a short-lived storm from 7:16 to 7:18. Storms exited the target area around 7:20.

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Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program