

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 254 Lakin, KS 67860

Lakin Office: 620-355-6913

waltergeiger@yahoo.com

Internet: www.gmd1.org/index-3.html

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period June 27 – July 3, 2015

General Interest: County rainfall averages for June

County precipitation averages for June indicate a very disappointing moisture deficit for all target area counties. Unseasonably warm temperatures combined with less than normal rainfall resulted in a fairly significant depletion of topsoil moisture from plentiful May rains. Although the area is not currently listed in drought or even abnormally dry conditions, we may very well find ourselves back in drought before the summer is over. Hopefully the rains will return this week as we have a multi-day period of storm chances and a significant cold front plunging through western Kansas the first part of the week. The 7-day forecast rainfall accumulation calls for about 1.00+ inches of rainfall through July 12th. Rain reports from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), www.cocorahs.org, indicate the highest 2015 June county precipitation average was in Kearny County with 2.16 inches or 27% below normal for Kearny. Following Kearny, Scott County reported 1.49 inches (47% below normal), and Lane County with only 0.92 inches or 67% below normal. Across the state, significant precipitation deficits were also reported for June with roughly 90% of the state receiving only the area 25% to 50% of normal.

Weather: The week started out with sunny skies and seasonal temperatures Saturday. Temperatures climbed back into the middle 90's Sunday and Monday under mostly sunny skies. Tranquil but hot conditions prevailed Tuesday through Thursday except for a few scattered small storms late Wednesday night. Isolated to scattered storms occurred again Friday afternoon and evening mainly over southwest Kansas.

Operations: There was one operational day this week.

July 3rd, Program Operations Day #14

One plane was launched at 4:32 p.m. to investigate a storm traveling slowly southeast in southern Lane. A brief period of hail suppression seeding ensued at 4:52. The plane then moved to observe another storm traveling slowly south-southwest along the Hamilton/Kearny line. Although part of this storm was over extreme western Kearny, the best zone of hail and updraft were located over Hamilton. The plane turned for base at 6:00 as nearly the entire storm became confined to Hamilton.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program