

## WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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### WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No. 2016-15

For the period July 23 – July 29, 2016

#### **General Interest:** County rainfall averages for July

County precipitation averages for July were somewhat normal for the two target area counties. Although there were spotty locations within both counties that recorded below to perhaps well below normal or even excessive rainfall, the overall results were fairly close to the historical average. Rain reports from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org), indicate the highest 2016 July county precipitation average was in Scott County with 3.62 inches or 13% above normal for Scott. Lane County averaged 3.10 inches or 4% below normal. Within southwest and west-central Kansas, the counties with the highest localized rainfall were Gray and Ness where the average was roughly 5.00 – 5.50 inches or 250% of normal. Morton County averaged the least rainfall recording roughly 80% of their average.

The forecast total precipitation out to August 7<sup>th</sup> shows a dry slot over southern Kansas and Oklahoma likely resulting from a moderate strength high pressure system residing over the southern U.S. Our area will likely be positioned on the periphery of the high which will allow for at least a few storms while the main belt of storm activity is expected to remain west and north of our area. Precipitation accumulations of 0.10 to 0.50 inches are anticipated over most of southwest and west-central Kansas while eastern Colorado and northwest Kansas may receive 0.50 inches to perhaps 1.00 inches.

**Weather:** Blazing hot temperatures started the week along with moderately windy conditions on Saturday. A weak surface boundary was located across western Kansas on Saturday which allowed for brief small non-severe storms to form during the middle afternoon lasting into the evening and early night. Widespread thundershowers formed over eastern Colorado Sunday afternoon/early evening and pushed into portions of western Kansas Sunday night. Tranquil conditions were noted Monday and Tuesday over most of western Kansas except for a small portion of extreme west-central Kansas where a short line of storms eventually decayed after moving out of Colorado. Several rounds of moderate intensity singular storms and line segments developed or moved through western Kansas Wednesday evening and overnight. On occasion, some of these storms were severe with either brief large hail or gusting winds. Low intensity storms formed and/or moved into western Kansas again Thursday and Friday nights. Although not widespread, a few locations received locally heavy rainfall.

**Operations:** There was one operational day this week. Four observation flights occurred on July 27.

#### **July 28, Program Operations Day #15**

Two planes were launched at 12:47 a.m. to a developing line of storms over Logan County traveling south-southeast. A very brief period of hail suppression began at 1:32 a.m. just west of Dighton along a portion of the east/west line of gust front initiated storms. The line started to transition into an outflow dominated heavy to moderate rain squall around 1:50. Planes patrolled the remainder of the line over southern Scott and Lane until turning for base at 2:02.

**Walter Geiger, Meteorologist**

## **Western Kansas Weather Modification Program**