

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 May 3 – May 9, 2014

General Interest: It has now been roughly three weeks since any significant storm activity has occurred across any portion of the target area. Indeed, nearly all the storm activity that has occurred within Kansas has been located over north-central and the eastern third of Kansas. The latest Drought Monitor map valid for May 8th is very striking as the intensity of the drought has really increased substantially across Kansas. Roughly 53% of Kansas now resides in extreme drought. This is up from just 25% from last week. For the first time this year, an area of exceptional drought has popped up in Kansas along the Oklahoma border in Morton, Stevens, Barber, Harper and Sumner counties. Exceptional drought is the strongest classification of drought for the Drought Monitor map. It's still too early to tell if these dry and windy conditions will accelerate the drought strength to the exceptional classification across a broad portion of western Kansas by the end of the month. However, unless we start experiencing more than a few significant weather events soon, we may likely end up just dry as last May when the majority of southwest Kansas was in exceptional drought.

Source: U.S. Drought Monitor

Weather: The week was uneventful for western Kansas. A small and generally insignificant amount of virga and light showers occurred over portions of west-central Kansas Wednesday. Otherwise, warm to hot and dry conditions prevailed the first half of the week with some slight cooling on Friday.

Operations: There were no operational days this week.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program