

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period May 16 – May 22, 2015

General Interest: Numerous episodes of widespread rains are quickly chipping away at the drought across western Kansas. Although moisture has been plentiful, the precipitation deficit was so large going into this wet period that our area still has a ways to go before returning to a normal moisture profile. However, if these rains continue into early June, the area may be close to erasing this drought which started back in August of 2010. Radar precipitation estimates across the region for the period May 18th to 24th show around 2.00 inches across all of western Kansas with perhaps as much as 3.00 inches across western Kearny, southern Scott, eastern Finney, Grant and Greeley counties. Small areas of 4.00 inches were estimated over southwestern Kearny and southwestern Greeley counties. For the month-to-date, the location with the highest total precipitation within the target area is small area about 10-miles north of Deerfield in northeastern Kearny where radar estimates show about 6.00 inches. Plentiful precipitation is in the forecast for the upcoming period May 26th to June 1st with anywhere from 1.25 to 1.75 additional inches expected.

Weather: The week started out stormy with an outbreak of severe storms across much of Kansas on Saturday as an upper level storm system moved through the region. The remainder of the week was cool and cloudy with periods of widespread soaking rains nearly every other day.

Operations: There was one seeding day this week.

May 16th, Program Operations Day #7

Two planes were launched at 2:25 to investigate a line of developing storms over Stanton County traveling northeast. A very brief period of seeding for hail suppression occurred just southwest of Lakin from 3:46 to 3:47. Seeding resumed at 4:47 near Gano as a portion of a developed storm line began to indicate some hail growth. Although the squall line was traveling east, the individual storms within the line were traveling northeast at roughly 50 miles-per-hour. Seeding was extended north up to Scott City by 4:55. Seeding continued as the line progressed to near the Scott/Lane County line. However, the hail potential of the storms had transitioned into Gove County by 5:20 at which time seeding stopped and the plane turned for base.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program