

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period August 20 – August 26, 2016

General Interest: Short-term drought has crept back into a portion of western Kansas this year. While most of southwestern and west-central Kansas is experiencing a normal to above normal year in rainfall, areas in northwest Kansas have not been so fortunate. A precipitation deficit is noted over Sherman, Thomas, Rawlins, Decatur, and Sheridan counties with Rawlins receiving the least amount and currently residing in moderate Drought. Hopefully, there will be no drought expansion southward into our area over the next several months even though there is a 30% to 40% chance that most of western Kansas will experience below average precipitation from now through July of 2017. However, the long-term drought forecast out to November 30th indicates no drought conditions are expected for our area.

There is a chance at some impressive rainfall accumulations for the 7-day period valid August 29 to September 4. 28. Accumulations ranging from 1.25 to 1.50 inches are possible across all of western Kansas with higher amounts of up to 2.00 inches across the eastern portion of western Kansas. These elevated rain chances are primarily due to a series of upper level disturbances that will be passing over throughout most of the week.

Weather: Cooler conditions prevailed this week as the area resided on the northern side of a weak cold front pretty much the entire period. A few storms were noted particularly over portions of eastern Colorado during the evening hours as well as over the eastern half of Kansas near the front. A prolonged period of thunderstorms occurred over west-central Kansas Friday evening/overnight resulting in a narrow but fairly long swath of heavy rain accumulation over Wichita, Scott, Lane and Ness counties.

August 26th, Program Operations Day #18

Two planes were launched at 8:40 p.m. to an isolated storm traveling southeast toward Scott County. Seeding for hail suppression began at 9:11 p.m. over northeastern Wichita County and promptly ended at 9:15 as the storm fell below the hail threshold. Planes patrolled this remainder of the storm as it passed east-southeast through Scott and eventually western Lane by 10:30. The call to return to base was given at 10:32.

Operations: There were no operational days this week.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program