

The Catch

NEW COCORAHS MAPS

FORT COLLINS, CO — Sunday, April 17, 2005

Dear CoCoRaisins:

I awoke this AM to discover that we now have expanded-scale maps for many of the cities where we have large numbers of volunteers—everywhere from Las Cruces, NM up to Casper, WY. And as I zoomed in on Albuquerque, NM, I discovered that they had a major storm to show us. In fact, I see quite a few hail reports from Bernalillo County including some 1" diameter stones. (We'll be posting hail maps soon, but they are not ready yet on the new system.) So who ever told me they don't get hail down there - - - well, never say never. Good job with the hail reports—let us know if you have questions on how to report hail. Remember, there is a separate entry form for reporting hail. Timely hail reports are greatly appreciated by the National Weather Service as well as us.

Unfortunately, it looks like we have also introduced a few new "bugs" to our mapping system. It works best today if you use the new map menus to select state/county or state/city rather than just clicking the state maps to go to your local county. So be patient. We'll get it figured out.

On the road

We will be traveling this week to meet with our volunteer county coordinators from western Colorado and southern Wyoming. We will also be leading training and informational meetings about CoCoRaHS in Steamboat Springs, Palisade, Norwood and Cortez. If you are near any of those cities/towns, come and see us (times and locations were shown in an earlier e-mail a few days ago).

While on the road we will try to continue to monitor e-mail and the website but on an infrequent basis. It would be best if you contacted us at

info@cocorahs.org

Storm crossing the region this week

A storm system will be crossing our region during this week, so some of you may have some precipitation to measure—especially in Wyoming and northern Colorado. There could be some thunderstorms in some areas, and storms this time of the year can easily produce hail due to cold temperatures aloft in the cloud systems. At lower elevations you may expect mostly rain and you may want to keep your funnel and inner measurement cylinder in your gauge (makes reading the gauge easier—don't have to pour from outer cylinder to inner tube—and also reduces the potential for evaporation). But at higher elevations it could be snow, so the funnel better stay inside a bit longer for you folks.

Catching the water content of hail

We know that hard hail can bounce out of the funnels of our gauges. If you anticipate hail, it is a good idea to remove the funnel and inner tube for the duration of a thunderstorm to make sure we don't lose the water content from that hail. But then measure your gauge precipitation soon after the storm to avoid losing water by evaporation.

Some of you have purchased extra outer cylinders—mostly to make winter snow measurement easier. For you, it's a good idea to set your extra outer cylinder outside alongside your regular gauge. Then you can compare the water content collected with and without a funnel. Let me know what you observe. It makes for an interesting comparison for those who have the time and inclination.

Have a great week.

Nolan Doesken