

## **MORE COCORAHS OBSERVERS WOULD BE NICE**

FORT COLLINS, CO — Tuesday, September 13, 2005

I was recently studying rainfall patterns from some of our summer storms. You would think we would all be overjoyed with our 1000+ volunteers reporting in faithfully to help document and map local patterns and variations in rain, hail and snow. AND WE ARE! But the only problem is that except in a few of our larger cities (from Casper and Cheyenne south to Albuquerque and Las Cruces), and populated counties (Larimer and Jefferson in Colorado, for example) our stations are still fairly far apart and storms can sneak through surprisingly well.

### **Just 5 more stations**

Since there are still a few weeks left in our recruiting contest, I thought I would put out one more call for help. If we could somehow find just 5 more volunteers in each and every county who would sign up and begin collecting data for CoCoRaHS, just think how much that could improve our storm analysis. I bet there are 5 more in each county who would be willing -- but we might have to ask.

### **Let's all report on Sept. 20**

Remember that a week from today (Tuesday, Sept 20) is "Report my data" day. We hope that next Tuesday at least 1500 of us all go out and measure and report our daily precip -- even if you have to report 0.00

### **At least it's something**

A few of our Wyoming friends reported fresh snow in their mountains this AM. In some years, Fort Collins and other parts of Colorado and Wyoming have had snow by this date, but there is no big storm taking shape quite yet. It's OK with me if we wait a couple more months before the snow flies. I still have 3 inches of powder dust out in the corral so I am praying for rain. Tonight along came a shower to try to wet it down. But 0.01" didn't quite do the trick.

### **Turn in your hail pads!**

We are getting ready to begin hail storm analyses for our 2005 hail season. Do you have any damaged hail pads from this summer that haven't been turned in yet? Go ahead and turn them in when you get a chance. If you don't have a hail pad collection point near you, you can pop them in a padded envelope and put them in the mail to us. The hail season is coming to an end soon, but lively storms have been known to occur well into October. So keep a hail pad out and ready just in case.

### **Storm in Akron, CO**

By the way, did any of you see or hear the reports of severe hail in Akron, CO last week? One of our volunteers there, AKRON 1.9NE, took a nasty hit with stones as much as 3" in diameter on Sept. 7. That ties for the largest stones reported at a CoCoRaHS station this year. I regret to say they reported dented cars and broken windows in their hail report. For those of you who've never seen large hail, it's nothing to joke about. It comes with a terrible roar and can be totally frightening, destroying crops and property in a matter of just a few minutes.

Fortunately, out of 856 CoCoRaHS hail reports received so far this year, only eleven had stones of 2" diameter or greater.

Goodnight,

*Nolan Doesken*

P.S. Remember, if you no longer have the time, energy, or interest to report precipitation each day for CoCoRaHS or if you would like to be removed from our e-mail list, just send a message to:

[info@cocorahs.org](mailto:info@cocorahs.org)

If you don't plan to use your rain gauge any more, please return it or give it to a new volunteer. We currently have over \$50,000 worth of rain gauges in circulation and we don't want any of them going to waste.