

SNOW FOR COLORADO—FARM SHOW COCORAHHS TRAINING SESSION

FORT COLLINS, CO — Saturday, January 21, 2006

CoCoRaHS rain gauge readers and weather appreciators:

In case you haven't noticed, we have CoCoRaHS volunteers now from NW Wyoming to southern Texas and east to Philadelphia. We've had a recent surge of new applicants from Pennsylvania and currently we have over 50 new observers representing 25 counties. This is awesome -- Welcome Aboard!! But being so spread out makes it REALLY HARD to write messages that are useful and appropriate for all of you every time. Daily weather and precipitation patterns are SO VARIABLE.

Snow in Colorado

At last it snowed here in Fort Collins yesterday. In fact, it snowed almost everywhere in Colorado -- a fairly rare event. We still only totaled 1.4" with 0.08" of water content at my house, but it's better than nothing. Other parts of Colorado did great. In much of the Arkansas Valley from Buena Vista to Lamar 3" to as much as 8-12" of new snow landed. Congratulations!! You needed it. This time, some precipitation even made it down into northern New Mexico. But farther south the dryness continues. Based on 50 active volunteers in Dona Anna County (Las Cruces, NM) it has now been 97 days since the last measurable precipitation there. They do like their sunshine, but this is getting ridiculous. Meanwhile, during that same time period, Summit County and the northern mountains of Colorado and the NW mountains of Wyoming have had snow on at least 56 days. Snow is now several feet deep on the level in the yards of many of our volunteers. Several of our volunteers have already received over 150 inches of snowfall so far this winter. This pattern of dry to the south and wet to the north is consistent with the classic "La Nina" weather pattern when sea surface temperatures in the tropical eastern Pacific are colder than average -- and that is indeed the case at the present time.

Good Data

With close to 600 reports of snow yesterday, I just wanted you to know how pleased I am with the quality of our data (the wind must not have been too strong). Snowfall and water content measurements looked great across the region. Thanks for your efforts to collect and report top quality data!!

Colorado Farm Show, Jan. 24-26th

Many of you have roots in agriculture. If you're thinking of going to the Colorado Farm Show in Greeley, then we hope to see you there. We are teaming up with the National Weather Service for a display on weather and climate. Some of our volunteers have even offered to help staff our booth. So drop by and visit. We'll have new hail pads, extra rain gauges, snow rulers and anything else you need.

Training Session

We are also scheduled to give a presentation on current weather conditions, water supplies and CoCoRaHS. It will be held:

3:00 - 5PM, Wednesday, January 25, 2006
Island Grove Regional Park
Events Center West, Room B
Greeley, Colorado

If you have friends or neighbors interested in joining CoCoRaHS and planning to attend the farm show, please encourage them to attend.

1,000 Hail Pad - Hail Pad Making Party

And if you feel like being a part of something very strange and unique, then mark your calendar and plan to help be a part of our grandest ever hail pad party. Come for a few minutes or stay all morning. Our goal is to make at least 1000 hail pads for the 2006 storm season. If we get enough volunteers, Starbucks will donate \$1000 to our project. Food and beverages will be provided.

Saturday, February 25, 2006; 8AM - Noon
Location: Discovery Science Center, Ft. Collins, CO
Sponsored by Starbucks and the Discovery Science Center
More details to follow early in February

Enjoy the ride

As the jet stream remains strong over the U.S., and storms continue to zip across the country from west to east, be sure to hang onto your hat and enjoy the ride. Eventually you will get your turn for a winter storm!

Regards,

Nolan Doesken

P.S. Some of you have trouble getting our messages in the proper text format. Please know that we are making efforts to change our e-mail system and hopefully this will solve this annoying problem. Thanks for your patience.