

The Catch

COCORAHS—A BIG DAY FOR RAIN

FORT COLLINS, CO — Friday, April 27, 2007

Greetings weather enjoyers:

Yesterday (Precipitation reports for the 24 hours ending at or near 7 AM on April 25) was the wettest day in the short history of CoCoRaHS. Over 2200 daily rainfall reports were submitted -- a new record for the network. Amazingly, 1761 out of 2215 entries had measurable precipitation. 80 of us received 2.00" or more of rain (or melted snow at a few locations in Colorado). 624 of us had 1.00" or precipitation or more. The big "winner" for the day, if you can call it that, was our first Denton County, TX observer (TX-DN-1) with 7.14". That was our second 7"+ report of the year -- both from Texas.

I was on the short end of the precipitation stick with just 0.38" yesterday here in north Fort Collins, CO, but it's still enough to keep everything looking mighty green for a while longer. The winter wheat across western Kansas and eastern Colorado is about as lush as it gets. Thoughts of June hail storms begin to creep into our minds -- the life of the Great Plains farmer is like that. But the thought of hail is still better than having to deal with drought.

Waiting to get started??

It's CoCoRaHS season now -- storms coming and going with highly variable precipitation patterns. Every report from every station is really helpful for tracking these storms and investigated local variations.

We can tell from our registration list that there are several hundred of you who have signed up to participate in CoCoRaHS but have not yet begun to measure or report your precipitation. Is there anything we can do to help?? Did you get your username and password? Did you get your rain gauge and do you have it set up? Do you need a hand? I regret that there are only a few areas where rain gauges are provided free to CoCoRaHS volunteers. Most places you will either need to check with your local or state CoCoRaHS coordinator (their contact info should be listed on your state website -- just click your state on the national map on the homepage www.cocorahs.org) or go to www.WeatherYourWay.com to order one shipped to your door at the lowest price we could find.

Sponsors wanted?

There is a big demand for complimentary rain gauges and hail pads. We could easily add dozens more observers to the CoCoRaHS network if we had some no-charge rain gauges available and replacement gauges. If you know of organizations in your area that benefit enough from having access to CoCoRaHS data that they might be willing to donate some, please let us know. That would really be great.

Zero is good data

This is just a friendly reminder that we really appreciate knowing for sure that it didn't rain at your place. A zero (0.00") is just as important as any other measurement you might make. To make it easier, we have the "Monthly Zeros" data entry form that you are welcome to use to enter all of your dry days at the same time.

Hail pads!!

A reminder to all of you in Colorado and nearby states to please make sure you have a supply of good, new hail pads on hand (3-4 is good) and that you have one hail pad outside and ready. It is now prime hail season. We received 80 reports of hail for the last week, but I bet there were several of you who experienced hail but who did not send in a hail report, and others who reported the hail but do not have a hail pad. Even if the hail is small and harmless (the majority of our hail from what we've seen so far) we still want to know about it. And of course, if you get the bad stuff, let us know. Our observer near Sterling, CO out on the South Platte River in NE Colorado, took a pounding with 2" diameter stones. That's not good.

Patience, please

Our college student helpers who process applications and assign station names are in the most hectic weeks of their semester and will not have time to work on CoCoRaHS stuff until finals exams are over. If you are still waiting to receive your "Station Name" be patient. They'll get to it after May 11. In the meantime, you are still more than welcome to measure and report your data.

Thanks!

As always, please accept my thanks for your efforts. CoCoRaHS is a true team effort. You may not know many of the other members of the team, but we each have a role and together we do some neat stuff. Good job, and keep it up -- -- -- and if you're no longer taking measurements, that's fine too. Maybe you can get back to it later when you have a little more time. Or maybe you could mention it to a friend who might want to join.

Goodnight and well wishes,

Nolan Doesken