

The Catch

COCORAHS—MORE NEWS AND A QUESTION

FORT COLLINS, CO — Thursday, June 14, 2007

Bright, sunny and dry here this AM, but it looks from the morning reports that some of you in the Central Plains are waking up really soggy again.

I have a couple more things to add to my message from yesterday.

What if you have really heavy rains!

We have had some monster rains this spring in selected areas. When your daily rainfall amounts are very large, please help us out by adding notes on when the rain began and ended, and when the heaviest amounts fell. Your reports are often used by scientists, and supplemental information (as well as confirming the accuracy of the reports) really can help.

If your report is entered to the nearest whole inch or even the nearest tenth of an inch (rather than to the nearest 0.01 (in other words 7.00 or 6.90 compared to 6.93) the reading may be totally accurate but users of the data are less convinced. Some of you have made notes—yes, we really did get 3.80 inches overnight and there is considerable ponding of water this AM and the creek is really high. Confirmation like that really helps. Adding times and intensity information and impact information also really helps.

If you want to take a look at the comments that other observers have entered, just click on

<http://cocorahs.org/ViewData/ListDailyComments.aspx>

Select your favorite date, state, and/or county

Also, if you have exceptionally heavy rains, (5-8 inches or more in a 24-hour period) we may ask for more information. Also, if you hear from neighbors in your county of even heavier rains than what you reported, we would like to hear about that and find out where and when it occurred, the type of rain gauge, and the confidence in the reading (i.e. was that rain gauge empty prior to the storm?, etc.)

These recent storms in NE Colorado and SW Nebraska that have produced 2-day rainfall totals up over 10 inches are a good example of this. We have scientists already contacting us who will be using CoCoRaHS reports in studies that could impact the design, construction and maintenance of future and exists dams and spillways.

So, for the umpteenth time I will say - - - Your measurements and reports are REALLY IMPORTANT!

2) Do you have weather questions?

One of our very dedicated volunteers happens to also have a column in Weatherwise Magazine (a wonderful but not widely publicized magazine for professional and amateur weather enthusiasts that has been around for MANY DECADES). In his column, he answers challenging questions from the public about almost any aspect of weather. In recent years (maybe due to the Internet) the number of questions submitted to Weatherwise has been dwindling. But I know from your e-mails that you still have plenty of unanswered questions—and good ones!!

This is a great opportunity. Here is how to do it (from our recent Message of the Day) posting:

Weather Queries

“Some people are weatherwise, but most are otherwise”
Ben Franklin

Do you have a weather question that you have wondered about, would like to share with the public and have answered by a meteorological scientist? Our bet is that there are many CoCoRaHS volunteers out there who do.

Weatherwise Magazine features a regular column called “Weather Queries” in which folks of all ages send in weather questions (<http://www.weatherwise.org/wqueries.php>) that they have wondered about. If you have a weather question please send it to:

ww@heldref.org or if you prefer snail mail:

Weatherwise Magazine
Heldref Publications
1319 Eighteenth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036-1802

Please remember that no question is too simple to ask and no one is too young to ask a question!

Birds Plugging your Gauge?? We need help.

I have never had this problem, but we have received some inquiries from people having trouble with bird droppings clogging their funnel.

Do any of you have suggestions on how to solve this problem—i.e. how to keep birds away from landing on the funnel—facing out. :-)

I welcome your suggestions, especially if they are tried and true methods. I will post the best solutions in a future message.

I hope you all have a good day—and lets send some of the rain farther east and south to where it is really needed!

Make it through the day!

Nolan