

The Catch

COCORAHS – AMING FOR 9,000

FORT COLLINS, CO — Sunday, September 20, 2009

Good evening,

Aiming for 9,000

Please join in our effort this week to reach 9,000 precipitation reports each day on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday -- Sept 21-23rd. We have added many new volunteers since June 1-3 when we first hit 8,000 reports. Rain or shine, please plan to check your gauge and send in your reports and see if we can finally hit 9,000. We'll post the results and see how we do.

If you have forgotten your CoCoRaHS username and password, all you need to do is click on "My Data Entry" or "Login" at the top of the CoCoRaHS Web page: <http://www.cocorahs.org>

Then when it asks for your UserName and Password, just click on "Find your login info" <http://www.cocorahs.org/FindLoginInfo.aspx>

Type in your e-mail address (the one you used to register for CoCoRaHS) and our computer will send you an e-mail with the information you need.

If you are new to CoCoRaHS and have not yet reported, this will be an excellent time to start. Even if you haven't gotten your gauge set up yet, you can report your zero if you experience dry weather this week -- which could be the case for the 300 new observers who have signed up in Arizona this month.

The weather may cooperate -- at least in some places

It's more interesting to report precipitation when there is something in the gauge to report. I'm afraid that many of us across the western part of the country may only be reporting ZERO (0.00") for our daily reports this

week, but from the Front Range of the Rockies eastward there may be showery weather at least part of the week. That may help.

Goodbye summer -- Welcome autumn

It is with some sadness that I say goodbye to summer 2009. We had one of those special summers -- beautiful clouds, exciting storms, incredible lightning (but none too close for comfort), generous rainfall, gentle winds and one of our coolest and greenest summers in years. Other than the series of damaging hailstorms here, the summer was great. Almost every day there was something to look forward to and interesting things to watch -- either overhead or nearby. That's all changing now and after a glorious weekend the forecast is for dull gray clouds and temperatures only in the 50s on Monday and Tuesday. The SNOW word appeared in our local forecast for the first time this season -- but only for the nearby mountains. Temperatures Tuesday morning may dip into the 30s here -- -- and that's not good news for our tomatoes and eggplants. Our late planting of sweet corn had been looking very good. The ears were filling out and maturing this week. I decided to give them two more days before picking. The deer and raccoons appreciated my delay. They arrived to finish off the crop for me -- totally. Sighhh.

We even left Angel (the Great Pyrenees) outside at night to guard the perimeter. But the sweet corn connoisseurs can sneak in from the back, and they did. I wish I could have watched them complete their nocturnal harvest. They must be pleased with themselves..

Looking at the national forecast maps, there are frost and freeze watches and warnings out for several northern areas tonight and tomorrow and some western valleys for Monday and Tuesday. It seems early, but I guess it is "that time of year"

The CoCoRaHS Survey

Good news! As of this evening over 4,500 people have taken the CoCoRaHS survey. Thanks very much to everyone who has completed it already. We're pleased with this early response. If you've not had a chance yet, here is the link. It only takes a few minutes to complete

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Fvb5VidQbNFM2g4i3U5WXQ_3d_3d

If clicking this link in this e-mail does not take you to the survey, then go to "Message of the day" on the CoCoRaHS website (on the left-hand menu under the heading "Resources" You'll find a link there that should work.

This survey provides a good opportunity to provide comments, suggestions and ideas on how we can improve the CoCoRaHS project and website. Let us know what you think. With so many responses, it will take time to summarize results, but we plan to prepare a summary that we will share with everyone.

CoCoRaHS Help desk is on vacation

Zach -- who cheerfully processes each and every new CoCoRaHS application, and answers hundreds of e-mail questions via "info@cocorahs.org" is enjoying a well deserved vacation in Wisconsin this week. Zach started helping CoCoRaHS as a college student here in our Watershed Science program and did such great work that we hired him full time last year after he graduated (thanks to several sponsors who pitched in some support). So if you sent in a question or need to, it may be a week or two before you hear back. Thanks for your patience.

Enjoy the rest of the weekend -- and the onset of autumn,

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken
Colorado State University