

The Catch

COCORAHS – GOOD PROGRESS

FORT COLLINS, CO — Thursday, September 24, 2009

Rain gauge readers

Just a short update today since many have been asking

9,000 -- Not quite

We failed to reach the goal of 9000 CoCoRaHS daily precipitation reports per day for Sept 21–23rd. As of this morning we are well over 8,000 reports for both Monday and Tuesday. Late reports continue to trickle in. At this rate we'll end up close to 8,500 -- which is very good, but not 9,000. That may have to wait until next year. Thanks for helping.

Among the reports received this week were many very large rainfall amounts, especially in north Georgia where one station in Carroll County measured 10.64" in one day and a station in Douglas County had their gauge filled all the way to the top in 24 hours (over 11") and may have spilled several additional inches of rain based on radar estimates (we'll never know for sure). Weekly totals in several areas were well over one foot of rain and a few locations were over 20" -- "Holy Cow" as they say..

Not too late to report

Remember, you can always go back and enter daily reports for previous days. Just use the up/down arrows on the side of the data box to select the appropriate date or just type in the correct date. And for those of us with lots of zeros to report, you can use the "Monthly Zeros" entry form to speed up the process. Stations with complete monthly data are used a great deal for climate analysis.

Good Survey Results

Over 6,800 responses to the Survey as of this morning . . . This is WONDERFUL! Thanks so much. I can't wait to read the 2,746 suggestions on how we can improve. :-) If you haven't taken it yet, here's the link. We will keep this posted through the end of this month.

Minnesota to Join CoCoRaHS

More details to follow but we hope to have CoCoRaHS active in all 50 states by the end of this year (calendar year). Believe it or not, MN already has 1500 volunteers reporting regularly to their own state network which has been in place for 35 years. We'll just need to get our computers to share data.

Last week

As many of you know, hydrologists and climatologists, especially those of us in the western half of the country, use a different calendar for tracking climate and water statistics. We use the "Water Year" -- which is coincidentally the same as the "fiscal year" used by our federal government for budgeting and accounting. The year starts on October 1 and ends the following September 30th. From a western water perspective, this is the cycle of snow accumulation in the mountains and low evapotranspiration rates roughly October through March, followed by spring snowmelt and runoff, followed by high water use and evapotranspiration during the April - September growing season. So enjoy the last week of 2009. WY2010 begins next week.

38 F here this AM, but no frost and no snow. Perhaps we can squeeze out more produce from the garden.

Best wishes, and thanks for participating in CoCoRaHS. Zach will be back by the middle of next week to answer your questions via info@cocorahs.org

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