

The Catch

COCORAHS – A RARE DAY

FORT COLLINS, CO — Wednesday, October 21, 2009

CoCoRaHS rain gauge team,

I couldn't help but notice the unusual rainfall pattern on this morning's CoCoRaHS national maps. The top 3 heaviest rain reports for the entire country all came from one of my favorite counties in Colorado -- Baca County down in SE Colorado adjacent to the Oklahoma panhandle. That was pretty much the epicenter of the 1930s Dust Bowl and an area where people appreciate rain and know what to do with it. This one storm could get the farmers half way to a successful 2010 wheat harvest. Seven Baca County CoCoRaHS volunteers reported today, and that turns out to be a significant fraction of the county population. If we had a similar fraction of the population reporting from the rest of the country, we'd have over 500,000 CoCoRaHS volunteers nationally. Thanks, Baca County volunteers!!!!

Also, a big thanks to our California CoCoRaisins who, after months of normal summer dryness, had to spring into rain gauge action last week to measure a mighty storm. One of our volunteers reporting from the Santa Cruz mountains measured 11.09" in 24 hours and didn't get the gauge out in time to catch the first few hours of the storm. 9 out of 330 CoCoRaHS reports on October 14th exceeded 6" of rainfall -- one heckuva way to start the new water year. This was one of the more intense storms for that part of CA in several decades, and it was great to have several hundred CoCoRaHS rain gauges out to catch it (CoCoRaHS started in CA just one year ago.)

Snow comes early

Since October 3, we've had snow to measure somewhere in the country every day including places where the first snow sometimes waits until November or December. I wasn't quite ready to send out my annual "How to measure snow and ice" report -- since I was still waiting for the

tomatoes to ripen. While I get geared up for winter, please begin your own preparations by reviewing the instructions for measuring snow. We have written instructions, helpful hints, a training slide show and a downloadable video that you can read and/or watch at your convenience.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=snow>

http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=training_slideshows

Flu

I've had a brief early touch of the flu this week and it was no fun. So please take precautions to stay healthy this winter.

Best wishes,

Nolan