

# The Catch

## **COCORAHS - IT'S "REPORT YOUR PRECIPITATION" WEEK**

FORT COLLINS, CO — Sunday, May 9, 2010

Good evening from Colorado.

Just a reminder to everyone that this is our self-declared "*Report your Precipitation Please*" week. We hope you can take the extra couple of minutes each day May 10-14 to get in the habit of checking your CoCoRaHS gauge and sending in your rainfall report each morning. It's really very easy. If you've forgotten the website for entering and checking CoCoRaHS precipitation reports, it's:

<http://www.cocorahs.org>

Click "My Data" or "My Data Entry" on the top menu bar on your screen. If you've forgotten your username and password, that's no problem. All you need to do is click "Login" and then click "Find Your Login Info" and you'll promptly get an e-mail with your login information.

I know it's not that exciting to report zeros, but on most days the majority of the country is dry, so please send in those zero reports, too! That's important data too. And remember our "Monthly Zeros" report form for going back and filling in the days when no precipitation fell.

If we all report each day this week we should fly past the 9,000 mark in terms of number of reports. We might even come close to 10,000 and that would be incredible! I'll let you know how we do later this week.

By the way, thanks to all of you there in and near Tennessee who helped with timely reports of heavy rain last week. Nearly 100 CoCoRaHS participants totaled and reported over 12" of rain from last weekend's storm and three volunteers got more than 18". It appears that 2-day totals from this storm likely set a new state record for Tennessee and contributed to the severe flooding that ensued.

## **“Hail Week” wrap up**

Our CoCoRaHS hail awareness week wrapped up this weekend with a grand "Hail Pad Party" on Saturday hosted by the Fort Collins Discovery Science Center. Local stores donated food and beverages, and our small but highly motivated group made close to 800 new hail pads in less than four hours. Thanks to Henry Reges for organizing the event and for all those who came and those who made donations to help out. This will help us have enough pads to equip our volunteers in Colorado and some adjacent states for the beginning of the 2010 hail season. By the way, so far this year we've already received over 1,000 reports of hail from across the country. Of those reports, only 32 reported hailstones greater than 1" in diameter. The largest stones reported so far this year were 2 1/2" in diameter reported in Kansas and Texas.

That could change soon. There's some bad weather shaping up for parts of the country starting right away tomorrow (Monday). So be on your toes and ready to send in hail reports -- even if you don't have a hail pad set up yet.

## **Snow's still falling**

It's mid May, but snow continues to fall each day somewhere in our large and diverse country. This past week the northern Great Lakes took their turn followed by snows in New England this weekend. The next storm looks like it could bring heavy snow to the Central Rocky Mountains Tuesday and Wednesday with up to 2 feet of new snow in the mountains. Depending on a few weather subtleties, it could even snow here on our farm. Our trees are finally leafing out and the fruit trees and crab apples are in full bloom and the lilacs are just about to start. Let's hope it doesn't snow here this time.

## **Horse nonsense**

The main crop on our little farm is grass for our horses. With the cool, damp weather of the past few weeks, the grass has been doing well -- green, fast growing and not too weedy. We don't let the horses graze too much on this young grass until their digestive systems adjust from old hay to new grass. We accomplish that by letting the horses out to graze a couple of hours each evening until later in June. Usually, the horses are good about coming back to the barn each evening. All we have to do is

turn on the barn light, whistle and make a little noise rattling feed cans, etc. Soon the horses come trotting across the bridge and back to the barn. But about 3 nights this past week was a different story. The stupid horses were enjoying the new grass so much that they refused to come. Finally, I just had to go out to find them and lead them back. So there I was at 11 PM out with my headlamp and a can of horse treats in one hand and a short whip in the other out trying to find them in the dark and guide them back to the barn. One night they just ran circles around me until I finally went back and got a rope and caught one of them. Even the sugar beet treats couldn't pull them away from that lovely green grass. Tonight was much better. I just made a little noise and they came trotting in hoping for treats.

### **Good week**

I hope you all have a good week and that you dodge the severe storms that might develop this week. Thanks again for being a part of CoCoRaHS. Keep spreading the word and recruiting new volunteers when you get the chance.

*Nolan Doesken*  
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