

The Catch

COCORAHS -- HEAVY RAINS/HELP WITH PHOTOS

Fort Collins, CO — Thursday, August 30, 2012

Dear rain gauge readers, friends and family:

Big Rains Proclaimed

Much of the country continues to be dry. At our place here in northern Colorado I got to report my biggest rain of the month this morning – a whopping 0.02" bringing my August total to 0.08". The dust is alive and well here. But the heavens have opened up this past week in the southeast, the Mid Atlantic states (including the DelMarVa peninsula) and, of course, the Gulf Coast where Hurricane Isaac has visited.

Here are a few recent examples of huge one-day CoCoRaHS rain gauge reports:

8/30/2012

14.18" and 13.89" reported in Hancock County in southern Mississippi

11.17" and 10.48" reported in Harrison County in southern MS

More than 11" (gauge over topped) in Tangipahoa Parish in eastern Louisiana

8/28/2012

10.56" in Palm Beach County in SE Florida (two-day totals over 15")

10.50" in Indian River County in eastern Florida

8/27/2012

9.14" in Palm Beach County, Florida

8/26/2012

12.59" and 12.58" reported at nearby stations in Accomack County, VA on the DelMarVa peninsula

8/25/2012

8.76" in Halifax County in NE North Carolina

There were also some rain reports in the 4–6" range in Nebraska, Kansas and far NW Missouri late last week -- a huge change of pace compared to most of the summer.

Field Photo Weekend -- What an opportunity!

Do you have a digital camera or a smart phone? Please consider this special opportunity.

We've been scrambling the past few weeks to try to launch a nationwide effort to document how the country looks after this long, hot summer. We've gathered many "drought impact reports", but a picture is really worth a thousand words. Through a collaboration with two groups at the University of Oklahoma we've pulled together a "Field Photo Weekend" -- and it's this weekend, September 1–3.

As you are out and about enjoying the Labor Day weekend, keep your camera handy and snap a photo or two.

Click on this link for background information and specific instructions.

<http://www.southernclimate.org/fieldphotos/>

Don't send your photos to us. Follow the instructions in the link. After the photos have been assembled and uploaded I'll get back to you with instructions on how we can view the pictures so we can all see how the country looked this Labor Day weekend. If this works out, hopefully we'll be able to do this again. Comparing photos from place to place and year to year can be incredibly effective for showing how different things look between wet years and dry years.

Blogs, YouTube -- and other fun icons

Just another reminder that CoCoRaHS is providing a great deal of timely and relevant weather and climate information that you may not even know about. Just to the right and slightly below the word "Network" at the top of the CoCoRaHS homepage <http://www.cocorahs.org/> you will find a series of four small icons -- B for the "CoCoRaHS Blog", F for the CoCoRaHS Facebook page, T for Twitter and finally "You/Tube" for our CoCoRaHS YouTube channel where we have all our animations and the

many webinars and training sessions such as the "CoCoRaHS for beginners" we just hosted yesterday.

<http://youtu.be/LZnAWXR-S2c>

Please click any of these icons when you have a minute and take advantage of these resources and share them with others. There will be updates on our Blog as we track the heavy rains from Isaac.

Labor Day weekend -- on the farm

Plenty of farm chores are on my schedule for this weekend. We'll be planting our fall/winter spinach, chard and kale and we are trying to finish a sturdy hoop house in time for winter. With any amount of luck, we might get a few final hours of irrigation water to squeeze out a little more growth from our pasture. The irrigation ditch is barely a trickle, but that's better than nothing. With so little rain most of this year (only 6.52" since January 1 at my station) we're lucky to have any grass at all.

Enjoy this weekend, snap a few landscape/field/tree/water body photos if you can, and be ready for the inevitable weather changes ahead as we begin the transition to autumn. If you're in the path of the remnants of Hurricane Isaac, we'll be eagerly awaiting your rainfall reports.

As always, thanks very much for being a past, present or future part of CoCoRaHS. We appreciate your help very much.

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