

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

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NATIONAL HAIL RESEARCH EXPERIMENT NEWSLETTER

July 9, 1974

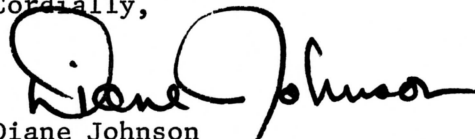
Sunday, July 7, was the first "hail day" in more than a week for the National Hail Research Experiment area along the Colorado-Nebraska state line. It was declared a "hail day" around 5:00 p.m. when a storm moved into the protected area from the north and east. The storm was studied by research aircraft, but was not seeded. When the storm moved out of the protected area, it had produced a quarter-inch of precipitation, but no hail.

The following day, Monday, July 8, was also declared a "hail day" when a line of storms approaching from the west and northwest moved into the area. These slow-moving storms passed over the northern half of the protected area and were seeded between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Silver iodide was the seeding material used. The storm was closely observed by research aircraft during its passage through the area. According to reports from the precipitation network received this morning, the storm produced more than a third of an inch of rainfall. There was no hail.

In order to allow researchers to compare the effects of the cloud seeding, the experiment design calls for approximately equal numbers of seeded and unseeded "hail days." By comparing information on the amounts of rain and hail that fall in the experimental area on seeded and unseeded days, researchers will be able to evaluate the effects of the cloud seeding. The experiment, now in its third season, was planned to run for several summers to allow for natural fluctuations in hail and rainfall to be taken into account as well.

Other activities in the experimental area this week included the testing of a newly developed sonde designed to measure electrical fields produced by storms. Several sondes were released over the experimental area yesterday in their first field test.

Cordially,



Diane Johnson  
Information Office