

Unusual storms blew through, bringing rain

By Kevin Bottrell
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Several unusual storms blew through northwest Kansas this morning, bringing rain and baseball-size hail. The storms continued the weekend trend by mostly missing Goodland, but causing mayhem in the surrounding area. Goodland got some rain Friday and Saturday. The storms moved through from

southwest to northeast out of Colorado, the first passing through southern Thomas County at 7 a.m. before following a path northeast along U.S. 83. A second storm passed over Brewster and Levant at 10:15 a.m. A third storm passed into Kansas to the south toward Garden City before turning north. National Weather Service spotters reported 4.25-inch hail in Wallace County and 2.75-inch in Sheridan County. The storm also produced

damaging winds. South of Sharon Springs, the top of a grain bin was blown off, trees were uprooted and several irrigation pivots were blown over. The service issued several severe thunderstorm warnings in Thomas County as the storms passed overhead. Friday's storm passed over Colby at 10 p.m., dropping about less than 1/5 inch of rain. Hail up to 1 1/2 inches was reported north of Leoti.

Near Tribune, a semi-trailer rig was blown over into a power pole, which then fell on the truck. Several other power poles were knocked over wind. On Saturday, a thunderstorm came through in the evening, dumping about a quarter inch of rain in Thomas County. The storm brought with it intense lighting late at night. One burst split open a 50-year-old small leaf linden tree near the Colby School District administration

building. The strike threw pieces of the tree trunk at least 50 yards to the south. The storm also produced 3/4 inch hail near Goodland and Tribune as well as winds up to 60 mph. A tornado was reported at 7:40 p.m. 11 miles southwest of Gove. Things were much worse in Colorado. Funnel clouds and at least one tornado were reported near Cheyenne Wells, with accompanying hail up to 4 inches.

A Sunday evening storm missed Thomas County to the north. After dropping 1 3/4-inch hail in Yuma County, Colo., it proceeded into Nebraska, where it spawned at least two tornados near Benkelman and McCook. The weather service is predicting more thunderstorms tonight with a slight chance of showers Tuesday morning.

Work never goes away



The mowing crew kept working on the very wet and windy Monday morning at the intersection of K-27 and Caldwell. Goodland got heavy rains and winds Monday. Photo by Sheila Smith The Goodland Star-News

Loans target women, disadvantaged farmers

Money is available for women and members of minority groups who want to purchase or operate a family-sized farm said Patricia Eckhardt, farm loan manager of the USDA Farm Service Agency for Cheyenne, Sherman, and Wallace counties. "Each year, the Farm Service Agency earmarks a portion of its farm loan funding for socially disadvantaged applicants, people who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender inequality without regard to their individual qualities," Eckhardt said.

Socially disadvantaged applicants may be women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives.

Eckhardt said while money is earmarked for loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, loan approval is neither automatic nor guaranteed.

"Socially disadvantaged applicants must meet the same eligibility

criteria as other applicants," Eckhardt said. Applicants must be U.S. citizens; have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations; have sufficient education, training or experience managing or operating a farm; possess legal capacity to incur debt; and, be unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

The agency can make direct loans to applicants who are unable to get commercial credit or provide loan guarantees to commercial lenders.

Guaranteed loans may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks,

savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System). FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of the loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Applicants can use operating loans to purchase livestock, equipment, feed, seed or pay other business related expenses. Operating loans are usually repaid in one to seven years.

Ownership loans provide capital to purchase or enlarge a farm, construct or improve buildings, promote soil and water conservation and pay closing costs. Direct

ownership loan terms are up to 40 years while guaranteed loan terms are established by the lender.

Qualified applicants receive information and assistance to develop sound management practices, analyze problems and utilize available resources essential for successful farming operations to cope with the changing agricultural environment.

In Fiscal Year 2010, Kansas obligated \$2,152,970 for a total of 75 loans to qualified farmers under the Socially Disadvantaged Persons Loan Program.

"We obligated \$20,952,114 for a total of 286 loans to qualified farmers under the Beginning Farmer Program," Eckhardt said.

For more information, contact your local Farm Service Agency at the county USDA Service Center 210 W. 10th. Call (785) 899-3070.

a word to the wise

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corrections

In the story of the "Junior golfers took six first places at St. Francis tournament" on Page 10 of the Friday, June 17, edition of The Goodland Star-News it was reported the Dillon Gilmag had a score of 58. He had a score of 49. This was due to incorrect information given to the paper.

☆☆☆☆☆

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

STATE-OF-THE-ART




TONIGHT 7 PM:
Hangover Part 2 (R)
Friday 7PM
X-Men: First Class (PG-13)

FUN BY THE NUMBERS

5								1
7			3					4
				4	3			8
		3	1					
	8		7		2	3	4	
		2					5	
3			2		7			
				1	8			
	9							

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