

Bluestem Breezes  
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## **June 2015 Weather Summary**

We have experienced quite the unique spring and summer, in terms of rainfall. I find it rather interesting to take a broad look at what the entire state is experiencing for weather. I hope you'll find the information from K-State's Mary Knapp in the Weather Data Library to provoke a few conversations. Read on for June's weather summary:

While June began on a wet note, most of the state ended up with lower-than-average precipitation for the month. Statewide average precipitation was 3.03 inches, or 69 percent of normal. This ranks as the 33<sup>rd</sup> driest June on record. Only the Northeastern Division averaged above normal. The average precipitation for the Northeast was 6.94 inches, or 134 percent of normal. The greatest monthly total for the month was 10.46 inches at Bremen, Marshall County (NWS) and 9.54 inches at Blue Rapids, Marshall County (CoCoRaHS).

Temperatures averaged warmer than normal for the month. The statewide average temperature was 75.7 degrees F, which is 2.7 degrees warmer than normal. This rapid switch from cool wet conditions to warm dry conditions have had mixed impacts. The dry weather allowed for rapid progress on wheat harvest and for field work such as haying. On the other hand, the warm temperatures stressed spring planted crops such as corn and soybeans that had limited root development.

Severe weather activity was less than last month. Preliminary data indicates there were 15 tornadoes reported during June, compared to 99 in May. Hail reports were also fewer, with 83 in June versus 108 in May. There was an increase in damaging wind reports with 65 reports this month and only 52 reports last month.

Drought conditions continued to improve slightly as the wet end to May and wet start to June were included in the assessments. The only remaining moderate drought area is in northwest and north central Kansas, with a small area of abnormally dry conditions in the southwest. Thirty seven counties in western Kansas remain in drought watch status according to the latest advisory from the Kansas Water Office. A return to normal or above-normal precipitation is needed to sustain improvements. Some long-term hydrological deficits are in place affecting some water supplies and reservoirs. For example, Norton, Cedar Bluff, Kirwin, and Webster reservoirs are all less than 75 percent of conservation pool.

For additional information, visit the Extension Office (215 Kansas, Courthouse, Alma; [kamayer@ksu.edu](mailto:kamayer@ksu.edu); 765-3821). For Bluestem Breezes archives, check out [wabaunsee.ksu.edu](http://wabaunsee.ksu.edu).