

Bluestem Breezes  
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October 14, 2013

## September Weather Summary

It is interesting to read the climate summary reports from K-State Climatologist Mary Knapp. Although we are expecting some much needed rains this week, will it be satisfactory to offset the drought conditions? Please read on for Ms. Knapp's synopsis:

Temperatures began the month of September much warmer-than-average across the state. During the first ten days of the month, many locations recorded readings over 100 degrees F. For some locations, these were the warmest readings of the year. Not surprisingly, the month averaged warmer than normal. It was the 13<sup>th</sup> warmest September in the 119 years from 1895 to present. The Northwest Division average showed the greatest departure. The divisional average was 5 degrees above average. The Southeast Division came closest to average. <The average temperature in Wabaunsee County was 71 degrees F.>

Statewide, the average precipitation was 2.63 inches, which is 109% of normal. As percent of normal, the West Central Division ranked the highest at 222%. The average for the division was 3.56 inches. All of the western divisions saw totals above average. This contributed to the elimination of exceptional drought conditions in the state. However, much of the west remains in extreme to moderate drought. Meanwhile, the East Central and Southeastern Divisions had much-below-normal precipitation for the month. Several extremely heavy rain events occurred in the state. <Wabaunsee County saw approximately 3 inches of precipitation.>

The continued moisture into September allowed for normal conditions to remain on the Drought Monitor, with some improvements in the western divisions. These have been limited, as rainfall for the year continues to be well below average. Warmer-than-average temperatures have somewhat limited the beneficial of the above average rainfall, and severe to exceptional drought conditions remain throughout the western region. The Seasonal Drought Outlook suggests continued improvement on the eastern edges of the drought region. The Seasonal Drought Outlook and the monthly outlook for October call for continuing drought in the western third of the state. Given the fact that we are moving into the drier part of the year, even normal precipitation will have minimal impact on the long term deficits in the region. The El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to remain neutral.

For October, the temperature outlook is neutral. The precipitation outlook calls for a greater chance of drier than normal conditions in October. The mid-term outlook of 8-14 days calls for average temperatures through the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. Precipitation outlook calls for greater chance of above-normal conditions across the State.

Further information from the Weather Data Library may be accessed at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/>. Or, you may visit the Extension Office (215 Kansas, Courthouse, Alma; kamayer@ksu.edu; 765-3821). For Bluestem Breezes archives, check out [wabaunsee.ksu.edu](http://wabaunsee.ksu.edu).