Drought is “Cuckoo for CoCoRaHS”

Drought Monitoring: How CoCoRaHS is helping
CoCoRaHS: Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds measuring precipitation with 4” plastic rain gauges right in their own backyards

www.cocorahs.org

Join thousands around the nation
Five minutes a day!
It’s easy and fun!
All ages welcome
No experience necessary
Sign-up today!

WANTED!

Volunteers of all ages to help scientists study storms

The exploration begins in your back yard with CoCoRaHS!

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) needs you! Everyone can participate, both young, old, and in-between. The only requirements are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives.

CoCoRaHS needs your help!

To learn more or to become a volunteer observer, please visit our web site at:

www.cocorahs.org
The 4” CoCoRaHS Gauge

Holds a total of eleven inches
CoCoRaHS “Daily” 24 Hour Precipitation Reports

CoCoRaHS “Real Time” Intense Precipitation Reports

CoCoRaHS instantly provides the NWS with “real time” data for Warning Operations

CoCoRaHS “real-time reports” help initiate and verify warnings
CoCoRaHS across the country

14,000+ observers

All 50 states with the addition of Minnesota

COCORAHS MINNESOTA COMING SOON!
COCORAHS helps us track where drought is easing and where it is developing...

CoCoRaHS is proving to be a terrific vehicle for tracking drought across the United States. With over 14,000 volunteers armed with backyard rain gauges, citizens are playing a valuable role with their daily measurements and comments regarding drought impacts in their states.
24 Hour Rainfall Through This Morning

This map is an interpolation of actual reported values, but should be considered an estimation only. Reports are 24 hour precipitation from yesterday morning through this morning.

Source: CoCoRaHS

Precipitation Contours
In Inches
- 0.01" - 0.25" yellow
- 0.26" - 0.50" light brown
- 0.51" - 0.75" brown
- 0.76" - 1.00" dark brown
- > 1.00" dark red

Created by the National Weather Service
Forecast Office Nashville, Tennessee
September 16, 2009 1000 AM

weather.gov/nashville

www.cocorahs.org
Two weeks across the nation – September 9-23, 2009
Thanks a high density of observers in many areas CoCoRaHS can pick up a storm that other gauges may have missed.
How about CoCoRaHS and the onset of drought?
CoCoRaHS is helping the nation to identify the onset of drought.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DROUGHT FINDER
Call us if it’s DROUGHT you are looking for!

COOPERATIVE OBSERVATION NETWORK

A CoCoRaHS observer recently helped identify drought in his community. It was dressed in a dusty overcoat and headed west.

There’s Dust in my Shoes!

OCTOBER 2009
Ft. Collins, CO

Rain Wanted

Monday
Crops Wither
A Kansas farmer’s corn crop has withered away and he will now sell the stalks for broom handles at the local coop.

Tuesday
Ponds are Empty
Nil rhoncus turpis est, vel elit, congue wsi enim nunc utriclest sit, magna tincidunt. Maecenas aliquam maecenas.

Wednesday
Watering Rationed
All use of water to wash cars and water lawns was given the
CoCoRaHS
Sub-county Precipitation Reports

Improved drought monitoring on a truly local scale
An emphasis on reporting when it hasn’t rained

It’s important to report your observation to CoCoRaHS even when it hasn’t rained. Please report those zeros to help us out.

Message of the Day:

ZERO IS BETTER THAN NOTHING

Thanks for participating in CoCoRaHS and for entering your precipitation report today.

We realize that it takes time to enter your data each day. It may be more interesting to measure and report precipitation when there is something in your gauge. But keep in mind that it is just as important to know when and where it DIDN’T rain or snow (Yes, that season is coming soon) than to know were it DID. We even care about trace (T) amounts. Your reports of 0.00" for dry days are greatly appreciated.

If you don’t have time to enter each day, we have a feature entry report that makes it easy to enter zeros. Feel free to use the “Monthly Zeros” report. This is also a quick way to view your precipitation reports one month at a time.
The emphasis on reporting “zeros” helps CoCoRaHS show where drought may be developing.
“We have not had rain in our area in six weeks. Much of the topsoil is blowing away and I’m not sure if we will be able to plant.”
CoCoRaHS teams-up with NDMC

Impacts Reporting

14,000 additional eyes in the field

**NDMC, CoCoRaHS Sign Drought Impacts Reporting Agreement**

The National Drought Mitigation Center and the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) Network are pleased to announce a partnership agreement that will add drought impacts to the observations that CoCoRaHS volunteer weather observers can submit.

"We're excited about this because the Drought Impact Reporter would like to build its user-submitted content," said Mark Svoboda, NDMC climatologist and leader of the group's Monitoring program area. "And we have tremendous respect for CoCoRaHS's ability to recruit, train and motivate volunteers. We're really looking forward to working with them on this."

"We view this as a two-way street, not just having weather watchers report impacts, but to help recruit qualified weather watchers, people whose jobs and obligations make them better suited to report drought impacts," said Nolan Doesken, Colorado state climatologist and CoCoRaHS founder. He added that the network would especially benefit from additional volunteers in rural and agricultural areas.

CoCoRaHS, a volunteer grassroots precipitation monitoring network developed by Colorado State University, as of April 2009 was operating in 42 states with more than 13,000 volunteers, and it was expected to expand to six more states by the end of 2009.
Promoting the “impacts reporting” idea to the volunteers

CoCoRaHS “Message of the Day”

Monthly e-mail reminders

Emphasis in training sessions

Banners on the Web site

Other ideas
Observers list how drought is impacting them

“It is so dry that my cows are now giving powdered milk!”
CoCoRaHS drought impact reports
Impact Input forms
UNDER DEVELOPMENT
UP AND RUNNING IN 2010
Currently Two Ideas . . .
My Data Entry: Daily Precipitation Report Form

Precipitation Report Form

Station: CO-LR-007: Fort Collins 3.6 SSW

- Denotes Required Field

*Observation Date*

*Observation Time*

*Rain and Melted Snow to the nearest hundredth inch that has fallen in the gauge during the past 24 hours?

Yes No

Report was taken at registered location?

Observation Notes: (This will be available to the public)

☐ Check if the notes include a description of a drought impact

New Snowfall

Accumulation of new snow in inches to the nearest tenth

☐ Check if the notes include a description of a drought impact

Observation Notes:
Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

My Data Entry: Drought Impact Report Form

- Daily Precipitation
- Hail
- Intense Precipitation
- Multi-Day Accumulation
- Monthly Zeros
- Drought Impact Report

List/Edit My Reports
- Daily Precipitation
- Hail
- Intense Precipitation
- Multi-Day Accumulation

Enter My New Reports

Precipitation Report Form

Station: CO-013957: Fort Collins 3.5 SSW
* indicates required field

Duration
Drought is a gradual, slow-moving phenomenon. The start date is an approximation. End dates are not required.

Start Date: 9/30/2009
End Date: 9/23/2009

Description
What effects of drought are you experiencing? *

Report Categories
Please check any and all categories that apply to the report you are submitting. For more information on categories of drought impacts and reports, please click on the blue help icon.

Submit baseline reports when you're not experiencing drought so we can compare your drought reports with them. Please select at least one category along with baseline report.

If an amount of money is associated with the impact, please consider providing that information in the box to the right of the category. Including a dollar amount means you agree to allow it to be used as a summary statistic.
CoCoRaHS is playing a role in the NIDIS Upper Colorado River Basin Pilot project

1) Encouraging individual and community involvement in drought monitoring

2) Improving the documentation and reporting of drought impacts

3) Climate education and better public understanding of drought.
As we help our volunteers to “bring out their impacts of drought” we welcome your suggestions