

LKWCD Current

Winter

January 29, 2016

Happy New Year 2016!

Rainfall

Well it appears that another year has flashed before our eyes yet again. 2015 was an above average year in regards to rainfall. Earlier this month I went out in the field to download the remainder of 2015 rainfall data from the various rain stations that are placed throughout the district. I have now finished putting together all of the data and the numbers look really good. The annual averages for 2015 by county are as follows; Tom Green had an average of 24.11 inches, Concho 28.36, and Runnels 24.89. Each county had an above average year for total annual rainfall. Historically Runnels and Tom Green county average about 22 inches per year and Concho county averages slightly higher at 23 inches. The wettest months of the year were May, June, October, and November.

So far for 2016 we have not received enough precipitation to really speak of, which was unexpected due to the “El Nino” hype that told us we were going to have a very wet winter. We will see how the rest of the winter pans out rain-wise and hopefully we have another above average year of rainfall.

Water Levels

The water levels in January were up from last month as expected, but compared to last year, they leave much to be desired in the Lipan Flat areas in Tom Green county. Runnels and Concho county water levels were either still slightly rising or they were basically stable at a satisfactory level. Tom Green county suffered from heavy reliance on ground water in 2015 for cotton crops and the aquifer is still feeling the repercussions. Many wells were anywhere from five to fifteen feet lower than last January.

This month in addition to rain gauge downloads, I also downloaded the transducers that take daily readings in their respective monitor wells. I have not had a chance to complete putting all of the 2015 water level data together as of yet but for those of you that have allowed us to use your well, you will be receiving your well's water level graph shortly.