

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AN AMAZING HAILSTORM

The United States had more than the average annual allotment of destructive hailstorms in the year 1927. Official reports of these visitations, known to be far from complete, indicate that 17 states had hail losses exceeding \$100,000 while seven of these suffered losses of more than a million dollars apiece.

Among the reports of individual storms published by the Weather Bureau during the year, the following, which appears in the Kansas section of "Climatological Data" for the month of June, is probably the most remarkable:

"An unusually severe hailstorm swept a path 5 miles wide across the southern part of Gove County and the northern edge of Lane County on the night of June 4. Fields in the path were left as bare as a highway. Trees were stripped of branches and leaves, and horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, rabbits, chickens and birds were killed. Hailstones piled into drifts 8 to 15 feet deep and many of these drifts remained for three days after the storm."

This storm appears to have vied in severity with the worst that have been reported from India, where, in some cases, human beings and cattle have been knocked down by hail and buried under the drifts.

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