Over the next 6 weeks, scientists from around the country will take part in a large field project coined: Plains Elevated Convection at Night, or PECAN for short. PECAN, which began on June 1, is a multi-agency project (NSF, NOAA, NASA, DOE) funded by the National Science Foundation. The campaign is intended to study four meteorological phenomena related nocturnal convection: Mescoscale Convective Systems (MCS), Low-Level Jet (LLJ), Convective Initiation (CI), and Bores. The project includes both mobile and fixed PECAN Integrated Sounding Arrays (PISAs). The majority of the equipment, including 8 mobile radars, dozens of balloon launching systems, and mobile weather instruments will be stationed in Hays, KS.

On Saturday, May 30, PECAN sponsored an open house, located at Fort Hays Regional Airport. The majority of the equipment that will be in use over the next 6 weeks was on display for the public to see. The photos below, captured by meteorologists at the National Weather Service in Dodge City (@NWSDodgeCity) show some of the sights through the course of the day.

Since June 6, there have been four PECAN missions, one of which being a "shakedown" mission to test communications and logistics. The other missions included: LLJ (June 3), MCS (June 4), and Bore (June 5). In the future, I will provide a detailed summary of each individual mission, and a first-hand account from the field.

For more information on PECAN, please visit:
https://www.eol.ucar.edu/content/pecan-nutshell

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