Storm Prediction Center

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70

COMPOSITE REF. > 35 dBZ

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DISCUSSION...Although isolated to widely scattered thunderstorms are now initiating along the dryline, a much more substantive increase in thunderstorms is underway along a corridor from the Russell, KS vicinity northwestward through the McCook and Scottsbluff areas of western Nebraska. This appears focused within a broad zone of lower/mid tropospheric warm advection, northeast of somewhat warmer and more strongly capping elevated mixed-layer air (as inferred from 700 mb thermal fields).

Storms near Russell also appear focused near a zone of locally enhanced boundary-layer convergence, near the eastern periphery of a 20-30 kt southerly 850 mb jet, which is forecast to strengthen to 40 kt this evening. While there may be a tendency for this convection to begin to advect eastward, in the presence of 20-30 kt west-southwesterly ambient deep-layer mean flow, until the low-level jet begins to veer later this evening, strong storm development probably will remain focused near/west-northwest of the Russell vicinity.

Otherwise, a general increase and intensification of thunderstorm activity probably will continue across parts of the Nebraska Panhandle and southwestern into south central Nebraska through 00-02Z, with a tendency for activity to advect east/northeast of the Tornado Watch area. However, strongest storms, including discrete supercells and upscale growing clusters, probably will remain focused near the edge of the warmer/more strongly capping elevated mixed-layer air, where the more moist and strongly heated boundary-layer is characterized by large CAPE (up to 3000 J/kg).

As the southerly low-level jet begins to strengthen by early evening, the risk for tornadoes in discrete supercells will probably continue to increase, include potential for a couple of strong tornadoes.

..Kerr.. 05/26/2021

...Please see www.spc.noaa.gov for graphic product...

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NOAA / National Weather Service National Centers for Environmental Prediction Storm Prediction Center 120 David L. Boren Blvd. Norman, OK 73072 U.S.A. spc.feedback@noaa.gov Page last modified: May 27, 2021

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