

Record Hailstone Falls North of Kansas.

On June 22, 2003, a tornadic thunderstorm dropped record setting hail on the north side of Aurora, Nebraska. As people were coming out of their shelters, they noticed some very large hailstones on the lawns. Most were between 4 and 5 inches in diameter, but a few exceeded 6 inches. One particular stone measured 7 inches in diameter and was 18 3/4 inches in circumference. This stone was larger than the stone that fell in Coffeyville, Kansas back on September 3, 1970. That stone measured 5.7 inches in diameter and 17.5 inches in circumference.



The Coffeyville Hailstone



Most of the very large stones that fell in Aurora were about 30 to 50 feet apart and appeared to have fallen straight down. When one stone hit a house, it penetrated the roof of the garage, leaving quite a gapping hole.

People noted that the large stones made very large impact craters in the lawns. Some were about a foot in diameter and about 3 inches deep.

Measurements of the large hail stones were conducted by the staff of the National Weather Service office near Hastings, Nebraska. The Aurora stone was declared the largest hail stone to fall in the United States by the National Climate Extremes Committee of the National Climatic Data Center of Asheville, North Carolina.



The Aurora Hailstone

Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week
March 15 - 19, 2004