

# Cloud Seeding Issue Debated

By Wayne Singleterry

NORMAN — The merits and disadvantages of cloud seeding as a method of weather modification, which could possibly provide more rainfall and reduce hail during a thunderstorm, were debated by two meteorologists and an agricultural writer at the University of Oklahoma Thursday night.

Ferdie J. Deering, vice president and editorial director of Farmer-Stockman magazine, told about 60 members of the central Oklahoma chapter of the American Meteorological Society that scientists and meteorologists "have been extremely lacking in implementing the techniques of cloud seeding."

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers "are more concerned about sufficient rainfall than any other problem they face," Deering said.

Dr. John McCarthy, an assistant professor of meteorology at OU, said he was "certainly in favor of increased rainfall and doing away with drouth," but many experiments conducted worldwide in the area of cloud seeding have produced inconclusive results.

"I find this uncertainty disquieting," McCarthy said.

But Deering said this uncertainty should not stop implementation of cloud seeding.

"We ought to go full speed ahead to develop and apply all the knowledge of weather modification available," Deering said.

Dr. Edwin Kessler, director of the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman replied, "I don't know what that knowledge is that we should be applying."

"We have learned much about weather modification, but I also believe the results have been inconclusive," Kessler added.