Agweather Connection

http://agweather.mesonet.org/

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is this NORMAL?

by **Mark Shafer**, Oklahoma Climatological Survey

The weather changes every day, sometimes every minute, which is why we have the Oklahoma Mesonet.

But, as unpredictable as it may seem, the weather you experience falls within boundaries. These boundaries – our climate – define the seasons, the years and the long-term cycles. From decade-long droughts to summer heat waves, climate services puts what is happening right now into perspective.

Sure, records that go back more than 100 years aren't as precise as what you are used to from the Mesonet, but they are an important part of telling the story of what is happening today. For example, it seems as though we ought to be building an ark this spring, but when comparing with past springs we see that even in the wettest parts of the state, we are still more than five inches behind the wettest year (1957 in case you are curious). It probably seems more dramatic because of the two-year drought that preceded it.

photo by Kent Bush

The Oklahoma Climatological Survey, working with your friends at the Mesonet and Agweather, harnesses all of this information to help you assess what is happening now and help you plan for the future.

The Oklahoma Climatological Survey strives to make it easy to access Oklahoma's climate history through the Web, but there are always new ways to look at data. If you can't find what you need, call (405-325-2541) or send e-mail to ocs@ou.edu. We would love to hear from you! ▪

Mark Shafer is director of climate information and is acting director of outreach at the Oklahoma Climatoligcal Survey.

FEATURED PRODUCTS

by mark shafer

Free download

Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org/. Be sure to download the WxScope Plugin. It's safe and free, and allows you to view all of the resources that Agweather offers.

If your Internet connection is slow, we can send you a free CD that will allow you to download the WxScope Plugin more quickly. Call (405) 325-3126 to request a CD.

Click here for the Windows software.

Click here for the Macintosh software.

Rainfall and drought update

Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org/. Click on "Weather" and then "Monthly and Climate." Next, choose "Rainfall & Drought Update." Then, you will need to select a time period from the horizontal menue located at the top center of the page.

If you scroll down to the bottom of the page, you can view maps of Oklahoma that illustrate the rainfall "story."

Summaries

Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org/. Click on "Weather" and then "Monthly and Climate."

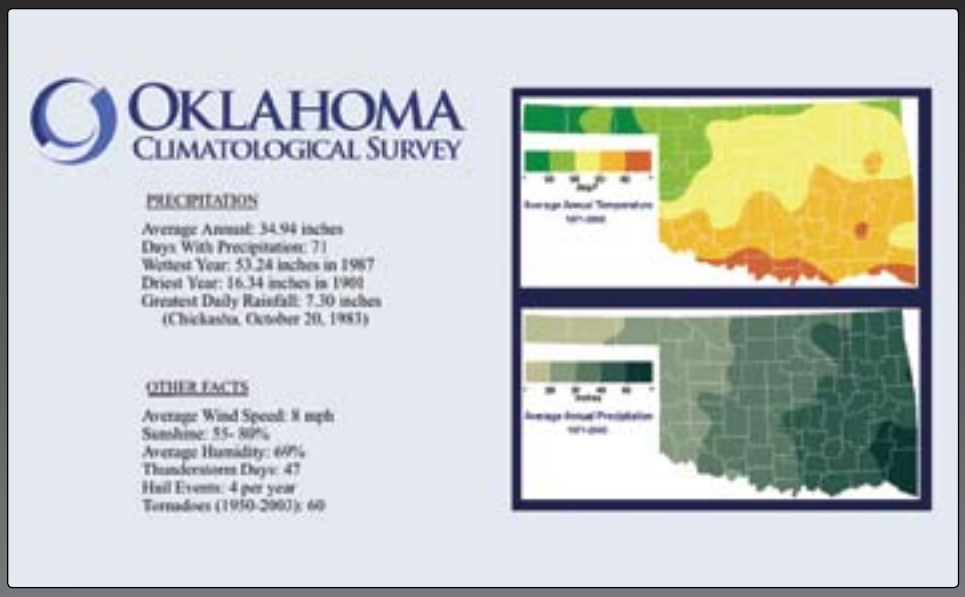
Next, you can choose to look at either "Monthly Summaries" or "Seasonal Summaries."

These summaries offer more information about our weather and climate, and what we can do to keep track of it.

County climate info

From the Agweather home page at http://agweather.mesonet.org/, pick the "Weather" button. Then select "Monthly and Climate," then "Oklahoma Climate Data" and finally choose "County Climate Summaries. Then pick "County Climatologies Page" located in the center of the Web site. Select a county and finally click "Quick Climate Facts."

This page tells you about probably freeze dates, monthly and annual precipitation, and much more.

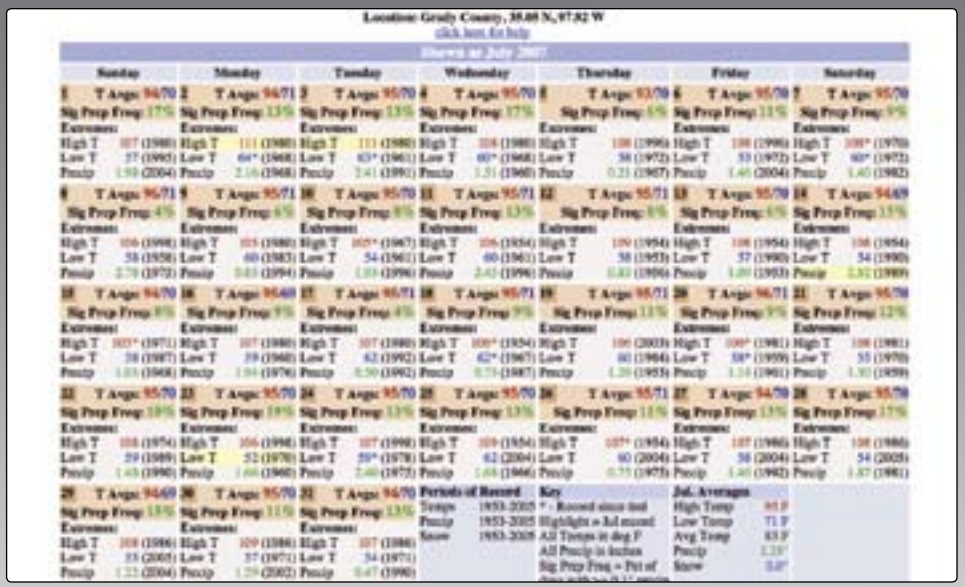


Coop data

Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org/. Click on "Weather" and then "Monthly and Climate." Finally, select "Coop Data."

Next, you can choose to look at "A Month in Time," "A Monthly Climate Calendar," "Timeseries Information" or "CLIMOCS Summary Information."

The Coop Data lets you pick a nearby station so you can see what happened on any given day. You can also look at climate calendars that give you the "normals" for this time of year.



MIXED BAG OF WEATHER

By Derek Arndt, Oklahoma Climatological Survey

9.52" vs 22"

Since March 1, the Altus Mesonet station has recorded just 9.52 inches of rain while nearby sites Cheyenne and Medicine Park both recorded more than 22 inches

Wettest

May 23 to June 21, 2007, is the wettest on record since 1921 for south central Oklahoma

+ 9.52" from 06

Burbank, located in northeastern Oklahoma, is already 9.28 inches of rain above the ENTIRE year of 2006, with 33.21 inches versus 29.38 inches

20 percent less

Across Oklahoma, 20 percent less sunlight reached the ground than the first three weeks of last June. Of course, last June was BRIGHT!

- 2" to - 4"

Both Tipton and Altus are approximately 2 to 4 inches BELOW normal rainfall for the last 180 days

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Agweather is a product of the Oklahoma Mesonet, a joint program between OSU and OU