

agweather connection

RAIN GO AWAY

Throughout the dry fall and winter, Oklahoman's prayed for rain and rain is what they got. Some parts of Oklahoma received record-setting rainfall for a two-week period starting at the end of April.

"From April 25 to May 16, 2009, south central and southeastern Oklahoma experienced their wettest period on record and southwestern Oklahoma had its third wettest period on record," said Gary McManus, Associate State Climatologist with the Oklahoma Climatological Survey. "The overall statewide average precipitation total was 3.66 inches above normal to rank as the 3rd wettest such period."

This is a far cry from the parched conditions of earlier months. "By and large, from late fall into early spring, Oklahoma was dry and we have the fire scars to prove it," said McManus. According to the Oklahoma Mesonet, from November 1, 2008 to April 24, 2009, the statewide average rainfall total was 5.28 inches below normal and the 11th driest such period on record since 1921.

Oklahoma's climate is highly variable, so periods of dry weather and wet weather are certainly considered "normal." However, McManus said that the term "normal" is an attempt to pigeonhole the weather into an impossible constraint of what is 'supposed to' happen.

"We all know what is 'supposed to' happen almost never does. So normal is actually all the variability averaged out to a single value, but with the reminder that all the ups and downs of the weather are contained within that value," explained McManus. [Click here to see a graph that shows these ups and downs.](#)

Because Oklahoma's agriculture economy is very dependent on the climate, any variation in the weather can ultimately be catastrophic for farmers. "Take precipitation, for example: if Oklahoma's wheat crop needs 24 inches of rain for a decent crop, getting an inch of rain in the four months after planting then another 20 inches in late May-early June is going to be disastrous (think 2007). The same thing goes for temperature. If we have an extremely warm February-March period, then a hard freeze in April...again, the possibility for disaster is there (think 2007 and 2009). So variation in the climate, can have profound impacts on Oklahoma's most important crops," said McManus.

Although much of Oklahoma's wheat was damaged by the drought and freeze that occurred earlier this year, farmers need dry weather to get equipment into the fields to either harvest or bale what is left of the wheat crop, or to plant a summer crop. So, rain, come again another day...after summer crops have been planted.



County Climate Data

- Start at <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Select "Climate" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "COUNTY CLIMATE DATA"
- Then pick "OK County Climate Normals"
- The map of Oklahoma shows the different climate regions in Oklahoma. Select the county you are interested in to see county information

- ➔ COUNTY CLIMATE DATA
 - OK County Climate Normals
 - County Climate Overview
 - Monthly Precipitation Table
 - Monthly Temperature Table
 - Tornadoes by County
- ➔ OKLAHOMA CLIMATE DATA
- ➔ NATIONAL CLIMATE DATA

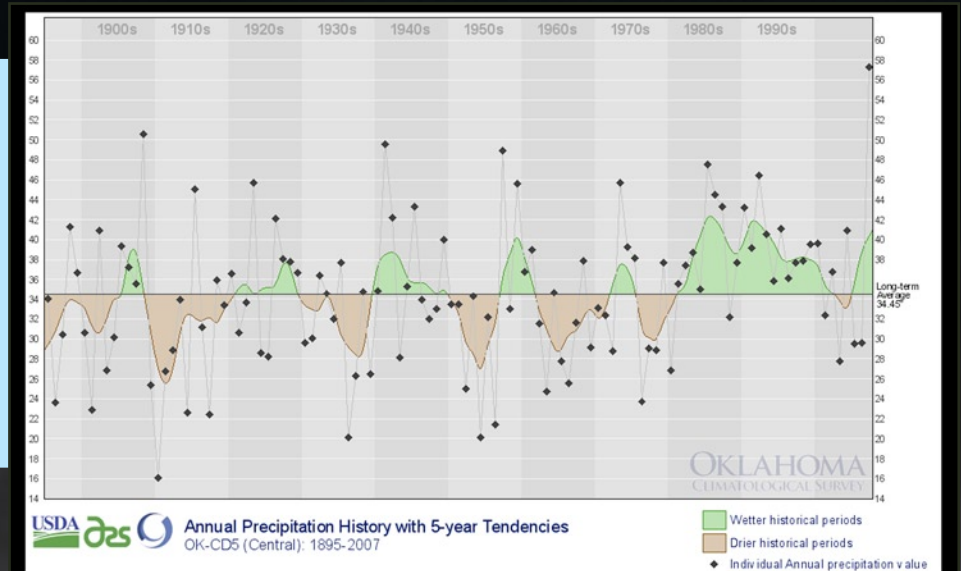
Climate Division	5 (Central)
Mean Annual Precipitation	32.7 inches
Mean Annual Temperature	58.2 deg F
Mean Annual Cooling Degree-Days	1806
Mean Annual Heating Degree-Days	4231
County Seat	Kingfisher
Population (2000 Census)	13926
Total Area	906 Sq Miles
Land / Water Area	99.7% land / 0.3% water
Tornadoes: 1950-2000	58

Monthly Means from 1971-2000

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precip. (in)	1.0	1.4	2.7	3.2	5.0	4.2	2.4	2.9	3.4	2.6	2.3	1.5
Temp. (F)	33.5	38.9	47.2	56.9	67.3	76.6	82.2	80.7	72.2	60.5	46.5	36.7
Heating Degree-Days	976	732	550	267	64	3	0	2	31	173	555	878
Cooling Degree-Days	0	1	0	23	134	350	532	486	247	33	0	0

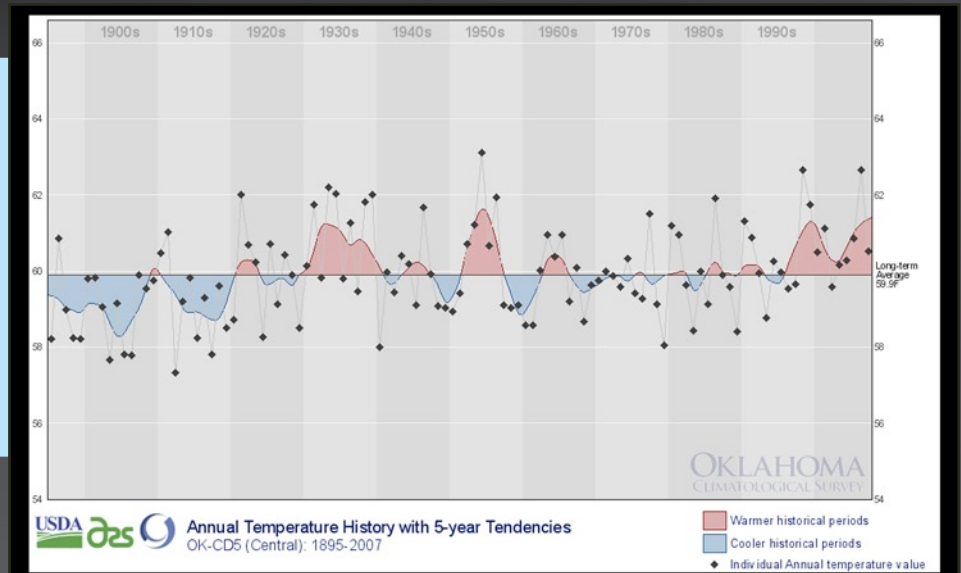
Oklahoma Rainfall Trends

- Go to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Select "Climate" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "OKLAHOMA CLIMATE DATA"
- Then select "OK Climate Trends"
- Finally, choose statewide or a specific climate division. Make sure the second gray box says "Precipitation." Then, click on the time period you are interested in



Oklahoma Temperature Trends

- Go to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Select "Climate" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "OKLAHOMA CLIMATE DATA"
- Then select "OK Climate Trends"
- Finally, choose statewide or a specific climate division. Make sure the second gray box says "Temperature." Then, click on the time period you are interested in



Oklahoma Climatological Survey: Drought Monitoring Tools

[HOME](#)

[SPRING TO DATE](#) [WARM GROWING SEASON](#) [YEAR TO DATE](#) [WATER YEAR TO DATE](#)
[LAST 30 DAYS](#) [LAST 60 DAYS](#) [LAST 90 DAYS](#) [LAST 120 DAYS](#) [LAST 180 DAYS](#) [LAST 365 DAYS](#)

Last 30 Days: Apr 28, 2009 through May 27, 2009

Climate Division	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal	Pct of Normal	Driest since	Wettest since	Rank since 1921 (89 periods)
Panhandle	1.19"	-1.93"	38%	2004 (0.24")	2008 (2.19")	12th driest
N. Central	2.82"	-1.59"	64%	2005 (1.47")	2008 (6.22")	33rd driest
Northeast	6.77"	+1.60"	131%	2006 (6.33")	2008 (7.43")	20th wettest
W. Central	4.25"	-0.28"	94%	2008 (3.65")	2007 (6.56")	37th wettest
Central	6.47"	+1.21"	123%	2008 (5.92")	2007 (8.43")	26th wettest
E. Central	7.30"	+1.73"	131%	2008 (5.00")	1995 (7.75")	21st wettest
Southwest	7.09"	+2.50"	154%	2008 (2.65")	1993 (7.39")	13th wettest
S. Central	12.57"	+7.32"	239%	2008 (3.91")	--	1st wettest
Southeast	13.68"	+7.69"	228%	2008 (4.62")	--	1st wettest
Statewide	6.83"	+1.95"	140%	2008 (4.73")	1995 (7.06")	13th wettest

Climate Division	Driest on Record	Wettest on Record	May 27 25cm FWI	May 27 KBDI	30-day SPI	Most Like (Arndt Score)
Panhandle	0.24" (2004)	6.34" (1951)	0.49	218	-1.01	1988 (9.35)
N. Central	0.79" (1970)	10.95" (1957)	0.65	104	-0.39	1984 (8.83)
Northeast	0.69" (1962)	18.00" (1943)	0.88	104	+0.76	1978 (9.07)

Fire Danger Model Burning Index
updated every hour

[click to enlarge](#)

Keetch-Byram Drought Index
updated every hour

[click to enlarge](#)

Fractional Water
updated daily

Oklahoma Rainfall & Drought Info

- Start at <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Click "Climate"
- Next, click "OKLAHOMA CLIMATE DATA"
- Then choose "Drought and Rainfall Update"
- Next, select the time period you are interested in from the horizontal menu

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Select a site:

Acme (ACME) rainfall in inches per month

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual Total
30-Year Normal	1.32	1.77	2.83	3.32	5.37	4.31	2.42	2.79	3.80	3.89	2.39	1.93	36.15
Mesonet Average	1.56	1.47	2.62	3.66	3.60	3.88	2.04	3.27	1.91	3.17	1.93	1.54	30.65
1994	--	--	3.01	3.22	3.91	1.74	3.75	1.25	2.89	4.31	3.95	0.69	--
1995	1.66	0.75	2.57	6.28	5.58	2.23	--	--	5.60	0.67	0.63	1.71	--
1996	0.46	0.00	2.94	1.85	1.34	3.66	4.93	7.40	--	--	3.67	0.02	--
1997	0.22	4.05	0.43	6.35	4.87	3.55	3.67	3.92	2.53	6.22	0.81	3.88	40.50
1998	4.45	1.16	5.26	3.78	0.49	1.32	0.01	1.62	1.09	3.22	3.72	1.58	27.68
1999	2.42	0.77	3.70	5.75	4.55	--	0.38	1.40	1.87	2.31	0.04	2.82	--
2000	0.84	1.42	3.49	3.63	2.85	6.68	1.25	0.00	1.08	--	4.19	1.44	--
2001	3.53	2.73	0.93	0.54	6.56	1.65	0.02	2.83	0.95	1.71	1.54	1.29	24.20
2002	2.42	0.94	2.20	5.67	2.22	3.53	3.31	2.10	2.86	6.69	0.59	2.44	34.97
2003	0.01	1.11	0.81	0.72	2.97	6.73	0.07	2.68	1.20	0.41	--	0.71	--
2004	2.09	2.63	3.60	2.38	0.74	--	3.41	2.72	0.37	6.25	6.04	0.51	--
2005	1.94	2.10	0.58	--	2.46	3.70	3.11	3.91	1.74	2.01	0.00	0.19	--
2006	0.19	0.17	2.33	5.25	1.79	1.47	0.99	4.92	--	3.22	1.21	3.14	--
2007	1.96	--	6.56	1.71	10.17	9.57	2.95	6.54	1.48	2.98	0.37	2.12	--
2008	0.12	1.62	2.35	4.14	3.43	4.56	0.71	4.55	1.17	2.25	0.22	0.52	25.64
2009	1.06	1.07	1.49	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Mesonet normals estimated from 30-year National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Station normals, 1971-2000. Official normals can be obtained from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, ocs@ou.edu or 405/925-2541.

Monthly Rainfall Table

- Start at <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Click "Climate" from the horizontal menu
- Then select "PAST WEATHER DATA"
- Finally, choose "Monthly Rainfall Table"
- You can change the site location at the top of the table

Mesonet Rainfall Totals (in Inches)

Data complete through 11:59 pm CST May 27, 2009

Station	7 Day	10 Day	14 Day	30 Day	60 Day	90 Day	May	2009	2008
Acme	0.54	0.54	1.69	10.77	14.19	15.38	7.31	17.51	25.64
Ada	0.64	0.64	1.72	9.63	12.82	15.29	5.53	18.50	*
Altus	0.27	0.27	1.03	7.16	8.45	10.43	2.80	11.11	21.13
Alva	0.84	0.84	1.09	2.50	8.47	9.09	2.18	9.61	28.98
Antlers	2.05	2.05	3.28	13.24	17.01	20.27	10.70	23.44	44.99
Apache	0.94	0.94	1.77	9.29	11.43	12.41	6.69	13.83	28.40
Ardmore	0.39	0.39	2.18	14.57	16.79	17.98	10.60	19.96	25.16
Arnett	0.38	0.38	0.42	1.58	4.63	4.93	1.16	5.18	*
Beaver	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.59	4.42	4.80	0.58	5.08	18.92
Bessie	1.50	1.50	2.06	4.94	7.42	*	4.53	*	31.96
Bixby	0.07	0.07	1.32	6.38	10.19	13.35	4.59	16.38	53.08
Blackwell	0.04	0.04	0.27	2.99	9.45	*	2.42	*	*
Boise City	0.35	0.35	0.36	0.71	2.44	2.67	0.66	3.09	13.10
Bowlegs	0.56	0.56	2.12	8.10	11.29	13.72	5.79	16.51	45.87
Breckinridge	0.04	0.04	0.41	3.10	6.25	7.66	2.44	8.50	*
Bristow	0.65	0.65	1.49	6.09	9.64	13.37	3.81	15.59	41.42
Broken Bow	1.00	1.00	1.80	19.40	23.87	28.64	17.30	31.58	53.88
Buffalo	0.59	0.59	0.59	2.67	5.39	5.69	1.35	5.82	23.14
Burbank	0.33	0.33	0.78	3.27	9.65	13.07	1.79	14.16	44.30
Burneyville	0.79	0.79	1.01	17.78	20.45	22.14	4.89	24.05	22.84
Butler	1.83	1.83	2.22	5.19	7.86	8.65	4.47	9.22	27.47
Byars	0.26	0.26	1.56	9.62	12.72	15.11	5.48	18.26	32.45
Calvin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	36.95
Camargo	3.36	3.36	3.49	4.70	8.11	8.55	4.46	8.92	*
Centrahoma	0.63	0.63	2.47	12.39	15.35	18.44	9.07	20.82	35.52
Chandler	0.60	0.60	1.42	6.24	8.94	11.11	3.83	12.96	34.78
Cherokee	0.34	0.34	0.68	2.25	8.47	8.81	2.02	9.37	36.40
Cheyenne	0.75	0.75	2.01	3.41	4.47	5.04	3.18	5.35	28.17
Chickasha	0.80	0.80	1.25	8.87	12.34	13.37	6.36	14.80	28.70

Recent Mesonet Rainfall

- Go to <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Click "Weather"
- Next, click "RAINFALL"
- Then select "Recent Mesonet Rainfall Table"

AFTER the storm

As harvest begins in southwest Oklahoma, some farmers are left with little to profit from after a damaging drought and freezing temperatures. According to Ron Hays, Director of Farm Programming on the Radio Oklahoma Network, many farmers have taken the forage route, baling the wheat for hay. Others have put cattle in the wheat fields, hoping for some grazing gains. Others have applied Roundup and have either already moved in with a summer crop or plan to do so, if they have enough moisture.

I asked Dr. Chad Godsey, Cropping Systems Extension Specialist at OSU, for some insight into the current wheat crisis:

Q. What options do wheat farmers have to try to recoup some profit after the drought/freeze/flooding?

A. Fortunately, soil moisture conditions are excellent so many options exist. For dryland producers in the state, sunflower, soybean, grain sorghum, and sesame are excellent options and there is plenty of time still available to plant. For the irrigated wheat that has been damaged, peanuts can be added to the list of potential crops that would be an excellent fit with good profit potential. We still have plenty of time to plant any of these crops and we have excellent soil moisture so we need to take advantage of it.

Q. Which crop has the highest price right now?

A. Based on current prices I would say soybean has the highest price but I think that all the crops listed above provide a good chance at being profitable. Local markets exist for all of these crops.

Q. What do you think farmers will do?

A. I think we will see increases in acreage of some of these crops but at this moment your guess is as good as mine.

Hays has been keeping track of what wheat farmers are doing. To let him know what is going on in your area, e-mail ron@oklahomafarmreport.com