

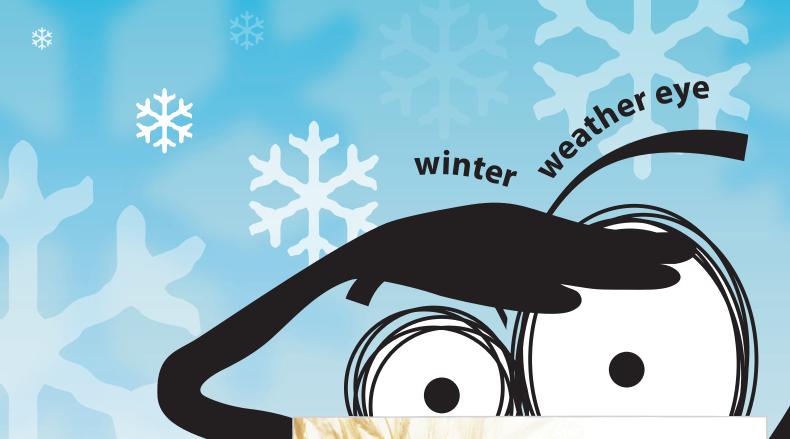
By Derek Arndt, Associate State Climatologist and Gary McManus, Assistant State Climatologist

Oklahoma's storm systems during the coldest months can take on many faces: rain, snow, sleet, wind, cold, thunder, lightning, and — worst of all — freezing rain. On November 29-30, 2006, a single storm system wore all of those masks, and left lots of problems in its wake.

On the 29th, a major cold front barreled into northern Oklahoma, replacing warm, moist air with very cold, dry air. The collision of these two air masses generated rain, thunder and flooding on the warm side, and freezing rain, sleet and heavy snow on the cold side. Several blizzard warnings were issued for strong winds and blinding snow.

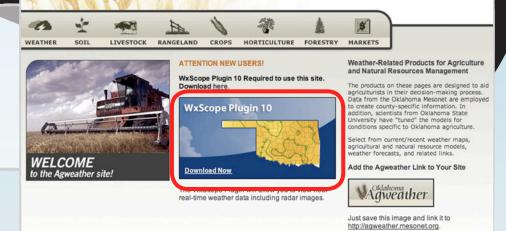
When all was said and done, more than a foot of snow blanketed much of northern Oklahoma, including 15 inches near Bartlesville. Strong, gusty winds piled up snow drifts more than three feet high. The snow cover lasted for six days, holding temperatures to frigid overnight values. Record single-digit temperatures were set from November 30th through December 4th, including a bone-chilling minus-4 at the Miami Mesonet station on Dec. 3.

Like most winter storms, the impact varied based on your location. The same storm system that brought 15 inches of snow to Bartlesville dumped more than six inches of rain near Muskogee on the Nov. 29. While northern Oklahoma dug out of its snowy mess, eastern Oklahoma recovered from flooding. This year, the forecasts for November indicate some confidence that the month will be warmer than usual. This doesn't eliminate the possibility of an early winter storm: November 2006 was also warmer than usual!



Free download

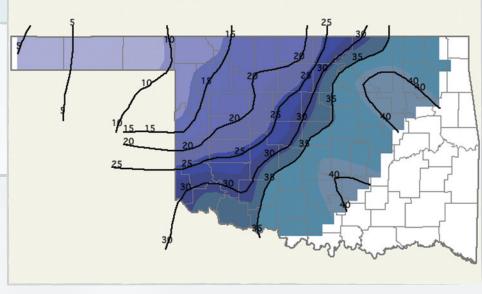
- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Download the WxScope Plugin
- For slow Internet connections, call (405) 325-3126 for a free CD
- Click here for the Windows software.
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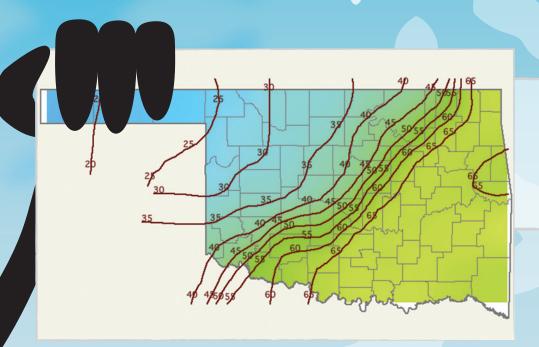
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Wind Chill

- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Click on "Weather"
- Select "Current Weather"
- Click "Air Temperature"
- Choose "Wind Chill Map"

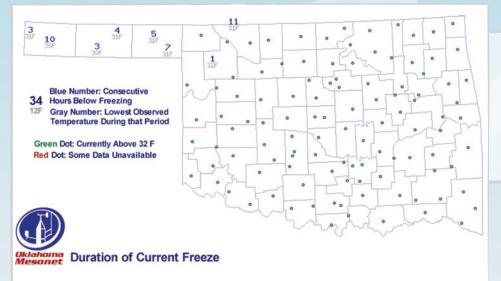


WINTER WEATHER EYE



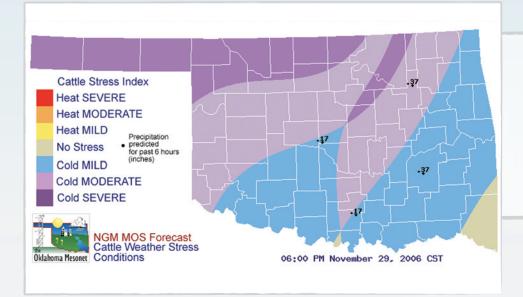
Air temperature

- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Click on "Weather"
- Select "Current Weather"
- Click "Air Temperature"
- Choose "Contour Air Temperature"



Hours below freezing

- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Click on "Weather"
- Select "Current Weather"
- Click "Air Temperature"
- Choose "Hours Below Freezing"



Cattle stress

- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Click on "Livestock"
- Select "Beef Cattle"
- Choose "Cattle Stress Model"
- Select "Cattle Stress Maps"
- Your options include Current Cattle Stress Conditions and Forecast Cattle Stress Conditions

Fall back It's time to roll those clocks back one hour. The time officially changes at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, Nov. 4. Starting this year, Daylight Saving Time began at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March and "falls back" to standard time on the first Sunday in November. This extended Daylight Saving Time by three weeks in the spring and one week in the fall. Daylight Saving Time was changed when President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The purpose of the legislation was to help curb energy use.

