

# agweather connection

## 2007 WEATHER DIVERSITY

By Derek Arndt  
Associate State Climatologist

- **January:** A major ice storm deposits several inches of ice on parts of eastern Oklahoma. Statewide damages approach \$40 million. Areas along and just east of U.S. Highway 69 are hardest hit, with some locations receiving up to four inches of ice.
- **May 4-8:** A series of storms brings tornadoes to western and central Oklahoma for five consecutive evenings.
- **Early July:** Days of heavy rains in northeast Oklahoma and southeast Kansas result in the catastrophic flooding of the Neosho River in and near Miami, Okla. Tens of millions of dollars in damages are incurred.
- **August 18-19:** The remnants of Tropical Storm Erin redevelops over west-central Oklahoma, forms an eye, and tracks eastward past the Oklahoma City metro area. Up to a foot of rain is dumped in just a few hours, with widespread flooding from southwest Oklahoma City to the Tulsa area.
- **December 9-10:** An ice storm paralyzes the I-44 corridor, including Oklahoma City and Tulsa. More than 640,000 homes and businesses were without power. There were 27 weather-related fatalities associated with this storm.





# climate SLEUTH

## Free download

- Go to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org/>
- Download the WxScope Plugin
- For slow Internet connections, call (405) 325-3126 for a free CD
- [Click here for the Windows software.](#)
- [Click here for the Macintosh software.](#)

WEATHER SOIL LIVESTOCK RANGELAND CROPS HORTICULTURE FORESTRY MARKETS

**WELCOME to the Agweather site!**


**ATTENTION NEW USERS!**  
**WxScope Plugin 10 Required to use this site.**  
[Download here.](#)

**Weather-Related Products for Agriculture and Natural Resources Management**

The products on these pages are designed to aid agriculturists in their decision-making process. Data from the Oklahoma Mesonet are employed to create county-specific information. In addition, scientists from Oklahoma State University have "tuned" the models for conditions specific to Oklahoma agriculture.

Select from current/recent weather maps, agricultural and natural resource models, weather forecasts, and related links.

**Add the Agweather Link to Your Site**



Just save this image and link it to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>.

Copyright © 2003-2006 Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma. All Rights Reserved. [webmaster@mesonet.org](mailto:webmaster@mesonet.org).

## Monthly summary

- Go to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org/>
- Click on "Weather"
- Select "Monthly and Climate"
- Click "Oklahoma Climate Data"
- Choose "Monthly Summaries"
- Select "December 2007"

## OKLAHOMA MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY DECEMBER 2007

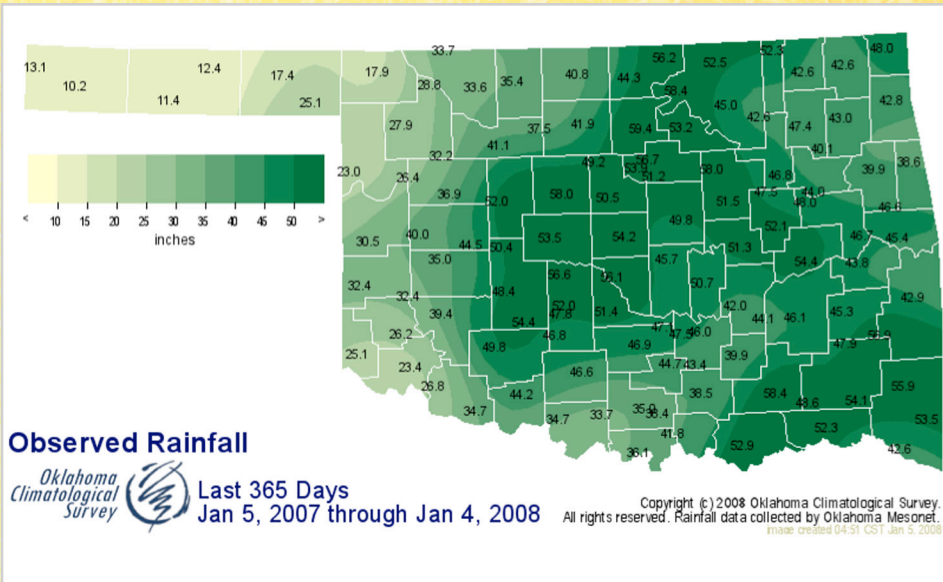


Several significant ice storms since the turn of the millennium have somehow managed to give only glancing blows to the state's major metropolitan areas, thus diminishing the potential number of power outages. This December saw that lucky streak end, however, as yet another major ice storm struck the state December 8-11 with Oklahoma City and Tulsa both squarely in the heavy ice footprint. When it was over, nearly 700,000 customers were left without power, easily the worst such number in state history. The worst toll, however, came in lives as preliminary estimates place the number of fatalities in Oklahoma due to the ice storm at 29. Catastrophic tree damage occurred all throughout central Oklahoma up through the northeast. That ice storm, along with several other bouts of wintry weather, propelled the month to the 29th wettest and 36th coolest on record statewide. The year ended as the 36th warmest and 14th wettest on record as well.

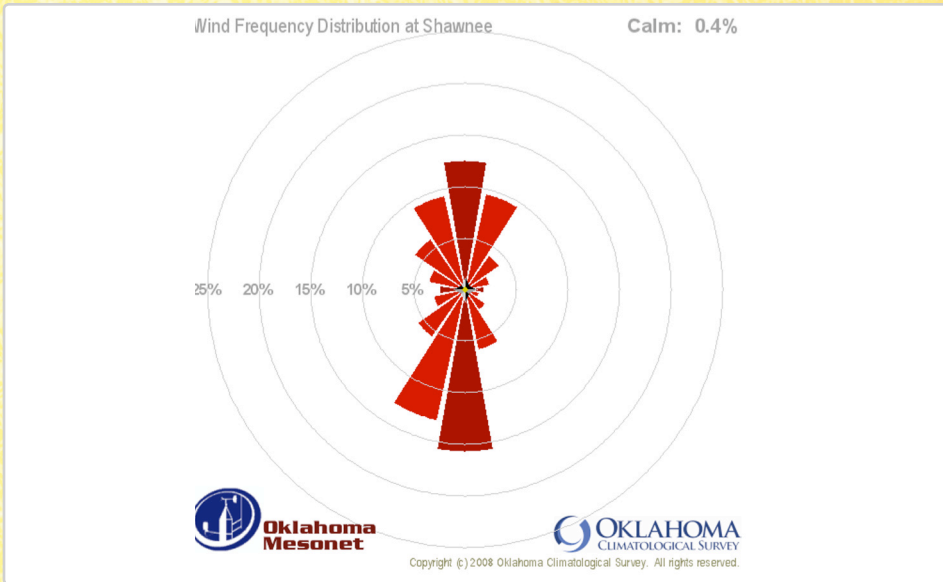
**December 2007 Statewide Extremes**

Description	Extreme	Station	Date
High Temperature	80°F	Idabel Burneyville	Dec. 2 Dec. 7
Low Temperature	-2°F	Hooker	Dec. 29
High Precipitation	6.78 in.	Talihina	
Low Precipitation	0.17 in.	Kenton	

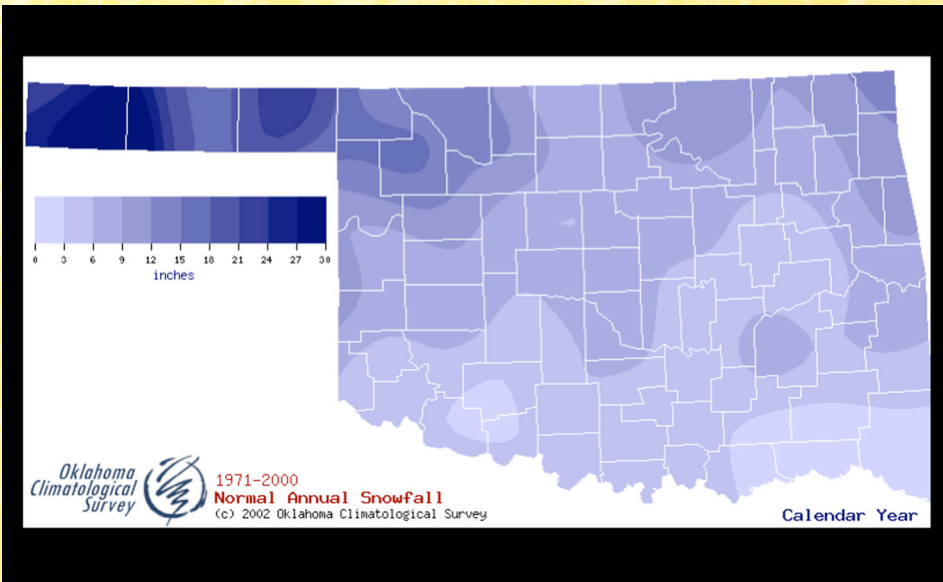
**Temperature**



- ### Last year's rainfall
- Go to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org/>
  - Click on "Weather"
  - Select "Monthly and Climate"
  - Click "Oklahoma Climate Data"
  - Choose "Rainfall & Drought Update"
  - Select "Last 365 Days" on the horizontal tool bar
  - Scroll to the bottom of the page
  - Click the "Total Precipitation" map



- ### Mesonet Ticker
- Go to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org/>
  - Click on "Weather"
  - Select "OCS/Mesonet Ticker"
  - Click the "OCS/Mesonet Ticker" button
  - Choose a date to view a "Ticker"
  - The Ticker at left was distributed on Jan. 10 and shows the wind direction and strength at Shawnee



- ### Normal snowfall
- Go to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org/>
  - Click on "Weather"
  - Select "Monthly and Climate"
  - Click "Oklahoma Climate Data"
  - Choose "Normals & Extremes"
  - Select "State Precipitation Maps"
  - Click "Mean Annual Snowfall"



# WHERE IS THE SNOW?

By Gary McManus, Assistant State Climatologist

Some parts of the state have actually seen a few decent snowfalls, but overall, Oklahoma has been in a dry pattern since the big rains last spring and summer. December was wetter than normal, but that was almost all due to the ice storm in the middle of the month. Other than that, the winter has been quite dry.

Keep in mind that the moisture in that big December ice storm would have made one heck of a snowfall had the atmosphere been cold enough in the upper-levels. The highest snowfall total we have seen this winter is six inches, measured at both Maud and Seminole on December 26.

Oklahoma winters have become warmer and wetter over the past couple of decades, so it is certainly feasible that some of the big snows of our childhoods have simply become big ice storms due to that added warmth. While we cannot say definitively that this is due to global warming, it seems reasonable that these are the types of weather patterns we

should see in a warming world. It is good to remember that even in a climate influenced by global warming, natural variability will still have a part to play. We will still have warm years and cold years, wet and dry.

With the extended forecasts being influenced by a La Nina pattern, Oklahoma should experience warmer and drier weather for the next couple of months and possibly beyond, but those forecasts are certainly not a guarantee. All it takes is one or two good storms to turn a warm and dry forecast into a failed forecast. We would all agree, however, that snow would be a more welcome visitor than ice.