Agweather Connection

http://agweather.mesonet.org/

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A state divided

By Albert Sutherland, CPH, CCA Mesonet Agricultural Coordinator

klahoma is separated into areas blessed with recent rainfall and areas that have seen little rain.

In northwest Oklahoma, virtually no rain fell. In counties through the center of the state, heavy amounts of moisture fell from the sky. A number of locations even received twice their normal rainfall over the last thirty days.

The rainfall divide goes right through the Oklahoma wheat belt. Growers in the southwest and central part of the state can sow wheat confident that there is enough moisture

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- New home for Agweather

for wheat to germinate and emerge.

Farmers in the dryer areas are still waiting for a good rain. They may risk planting ahead of the next forecasted rain to try to have wheat for grazing as soon as possible.

Those more interested in a high grain yield will likely

wait until after a rain to reduce the risk of seed loss. Delaying planting until October also helps minimize losses to disease.

In addition to recent rainfall, a break in the summer heat has created an ideal environment for pasture grass growth. This is especially true for the eastern half of the state that has more cool-season grass pastures.

Given an extended mild fall with



The beneficial rains of the past several weeks have brought improvement across drought-ravaged Oklahoma. Despite recent rains, the drought is still labeled as "severe" or "extreme" over much of Oklahoma.

additional moisture, these pastures may produce enough forage for cutting or can be used for fall grazing.

It has been a tough weather year for Oklahoma. Farmers are always looking ahead with great expectations.

After almost a year of below average rainfall, it is time for the weather to reward the optimism of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers.

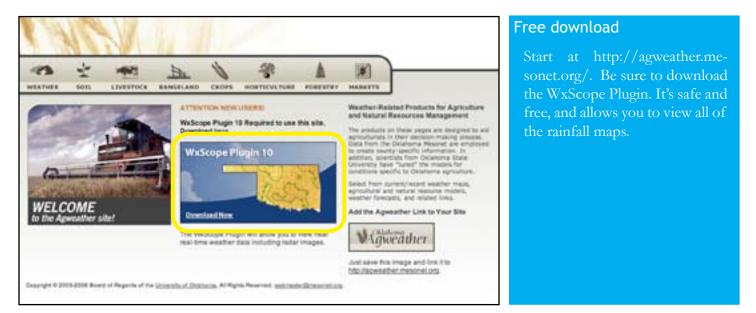
How much rain have you had?

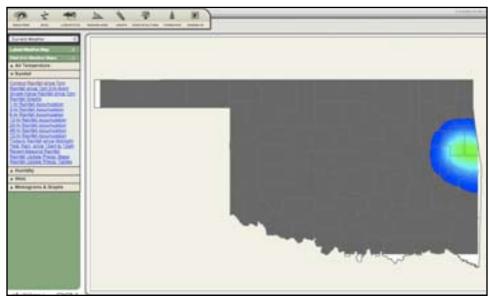
By Laura K. McKay Mesonet Ag Extension Associate

While the severity of the drought has faded slightly with recent rainfalls, its impact is still being felt. With this year's wheat harvest the smallest since 1957 and the majority of Oklahoma's pastures rating poor to very poor in forage quality, rain is on everyone's mind.

Agweather provides Oklahomans with free rainfall information. This data is supplied by the Oklahoma Mesonet, a statewide weather network that includes 117 weather towers across the state.

Agweather is free and easy to use. Checking rainfall amounts takes just a few moments. To help you get started, step-by-step directions are listed below. If you have any questions about Agweather, please call (405) 325-3126 or send e-mail to laura.k.mckay@okstate.edu or albert.sutherland@okstate.edu.





Rainfall since 7 p.m.

Choose the "Weather" button. Then select "Current Weather," then "Rainfall," and finally "Contour Rainfall since 7pm." This map will show you how much it has rained since 7 p.m. You can click and zoom on these maps to really focus on your area.

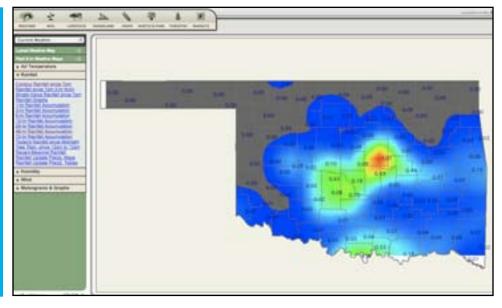
Determining rainfall

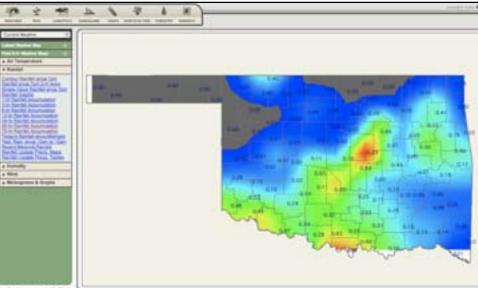
48-hour rainfall totals

Another tool for determining rainfall is to look at the 48-hour accumulation. To view this map, select "48-hr Rainfall Accumulation." In the legend box to the right, click on the rainbow. This will tell you the rainfall amounts for the location of your cursor. As you drag the cursor over the map, the legend will change for each location. This works on all of the rainfall maps.

72-hour rainfall amounts

Another way to examine rainfall is to look at the 72-hour accumulation. To view this map, select "72-hr Rainfall Accumulation."





Recent rainfall

Another rainfall product is the "Recent Mesonet Rainfall." This chart lists the amount of rainfall that each weather tower has received. There are 117 weather towers across Oklahoma, so you probably have a tower close to you. The rainfall amounts are given for 7 days, 10 days, 14 days, 30 days, 60 days and 90 days for each weather tower.

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The Agweather office has been relocated to the new National Weather Center in Norman. The new building is located at the corner of Highway 9 and Jenkins Avenue, on the research campus of the University of Oklahoma. The previous Agweather office was located in the Grady County OSU Extension Center in Chickasha. Photo by Laura K. McKay

Introducing the new and improved... NATIONAL WEATHER CENTER

By Laura K. McKay Mesonet Ag Extension Associate

A conglomeration of federal, state and collegiate professionals flocked to their new offices at the



Laura McKay (left) and Al Sutherland offer a touch of Orange Pride to the Sooner-dominated building. Photo by John Humphrey.

National Weather Center.

"The offices in the NWC are substantially larger than what either

> the OU or federal folks had in their old place," said Dr. Kevin Kloesel, Assistant Dean for Outreach and Public Services for the college of atmospheric and geographic sciences at OU.

Now, faculty, researchers and students can easily interact.

Please feel free to contact Agweather at its new home: 120 David L. Boren Blvd. Suite 2906 Norman, OK 73072-7305 405-325-3126 albert.sutherland@okstate.edu laura.k.mckay@okstate.edu



Agweather is a product of the Oklahoma Mesonet. http://agweather.mesonet.org/

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