

Agweather Connection

<http://agweather.mesonet.org/>

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A state divided

By Albert Sutherland, CPH, CCA
Mesonet Agricultural Coordinator

Oklahoma 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

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

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. 🌾



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.

INSIDE


- How to determine rainfall amounts
- New home for Agweather

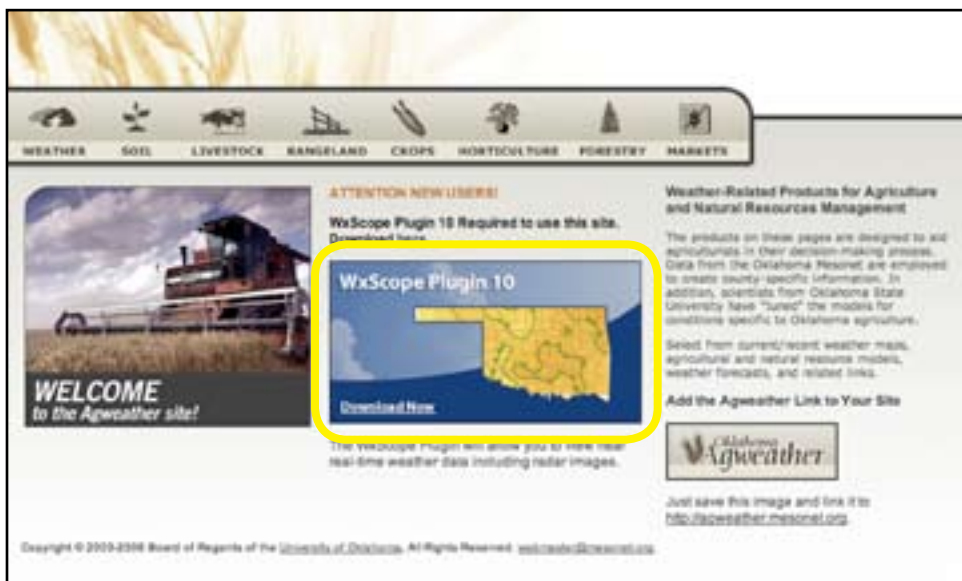
How much rain have you had?

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.

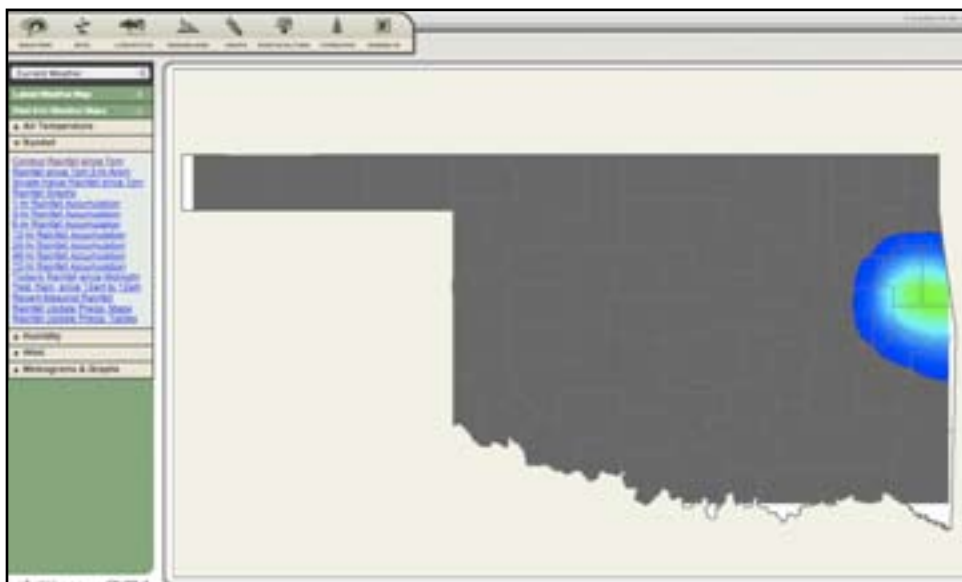
Agweather provides Oklahomans with free rainfall information. This data is supplied by the Oklahoma Mesonet, a statewide weather network that includes 117 weather towers across the state.

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. 



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 rainfall maps.



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.



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

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 📞



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

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Editor

Laura K. McKay

Mesonet Ag Extension Associate
laura.k.mckay@okstate.edu

Albert Sutherland

Mesonet Agricultural Coordinator
albert.sutherland@okstate.edu

JD Carlson

Agriculture and Fire Meteorologist
jdc@okstate.edu

For more information, contact:
 Mesonet Agricultural Program
 120 David L. Boren Blvd.
 Suite 2906
 Norman, OK 73072-7305
 405-325-3126