

Agweather Connection

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

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Working together

By Laura K. McKay
Mesonet Ag Extension Associate

As the Bedlam football game quickly approaches, devoted fans proudly display their school's colors and Oklahoma divides itself into orange and crimson.

Strangely enough, one building on the campus of OU amicably promotes both Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma.

The new National Weather Center at OU is home to the Oklahoma Mesonet, Oklahoma's world-class weather monitoring network.

It is through the Oklahoma

Mesonet that professionals from Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma have found common ground.


Working together has meant the difference between success and failure, said Ken Crawford, director of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey and Mesonet steering committee member.

"Together, we have done great things," said Crawford.

The partnership began about 20 years ago. OSU and OU joined forces in 1987 when they realized one statewide weather network would benefit both schools' missions.

"I didn't really think of it as a 'them-versus-us' situation," said Al-

bert Sutherland, OSU Mesonet Agricultural Coordinator, whose office is located on Sooner soil.

"Both universities had so much to gain by sharing expertise and perspectives," said Sutherland. "In my experience, Oklahomans are genuinely happy to know that the two universities are working together. Then they let you know who they root for on Saturday afternoons." 



Although they are staunch competitors on the football field, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma have found common ground with their joint project, the Oklahoma Mesonet. Photo by Todd Johnson

INSIDE

- How to view weather forecasts
- OK-FIRE Web site launched

What's the weather going to be like?

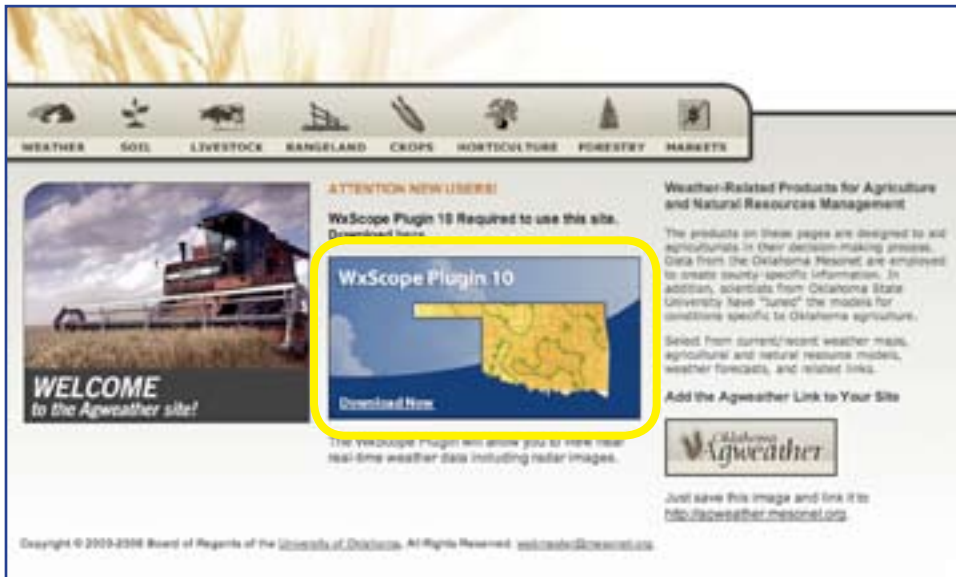
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"Oh Farmers, Pray That Your Summers Be Wet And Your Winters Clear." - Publius Vergilius Maro (70 BC - 19 BC)

As we transition from summer to winter, Oklahoma will experience dramatic changes in the weather. There may be rain, snow, frost or sunshine. This is Oklahoma, and as Will Rogers once said, "If you don't like the weather, stick around for five minutes because it is bound to change."

One way to keep up with the ever-changing weather is to periodically check weather forecasts. Agweather offers several options for checking the forecast, including forecast maps, illustrated forecasts and extended forecasts.

Agweather is free and easy to use. Checking the weather forecast 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 resources that Agweather offers.



7-day forecast

Choose the "Weather" button. Then select "Forecasts," then "National Weather Service," and finally select the forecast office that is closest to your location. You will be transferred to the National Weather Service Forecast page. Select your location on the map, or type in your City and State, or Zip Code in the text box on the upper left side of the page. You will use this Web page for the next forecast step.

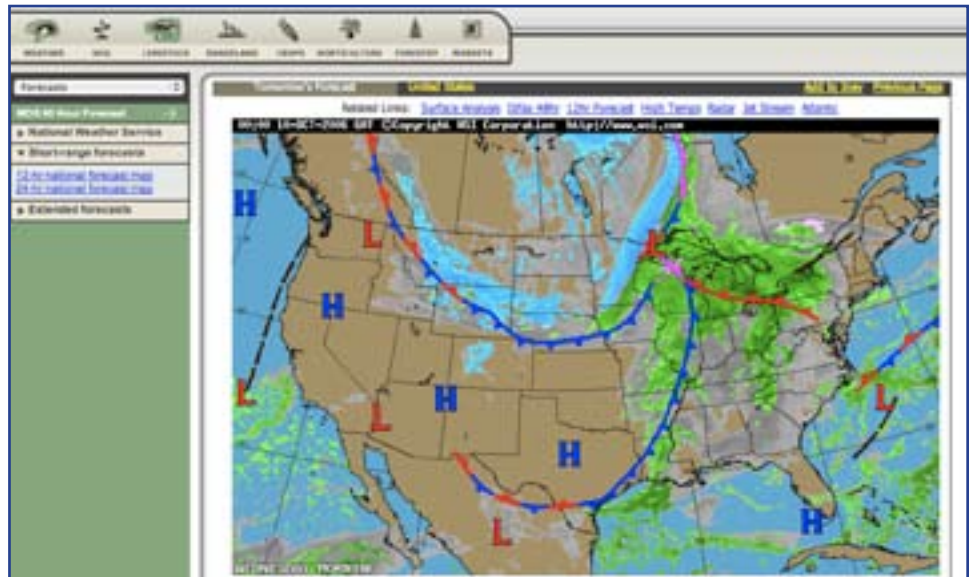
Printable forecast

While looking at the National Weather Service 7-day forecast for your town (which we visited in the previous step), scroll down the page until you see “Additional Forecasts and Information.” It is located in the bottom right corner. Select “Printable Forecast.” This will open a new window with an easy-to-print forecast for your town.



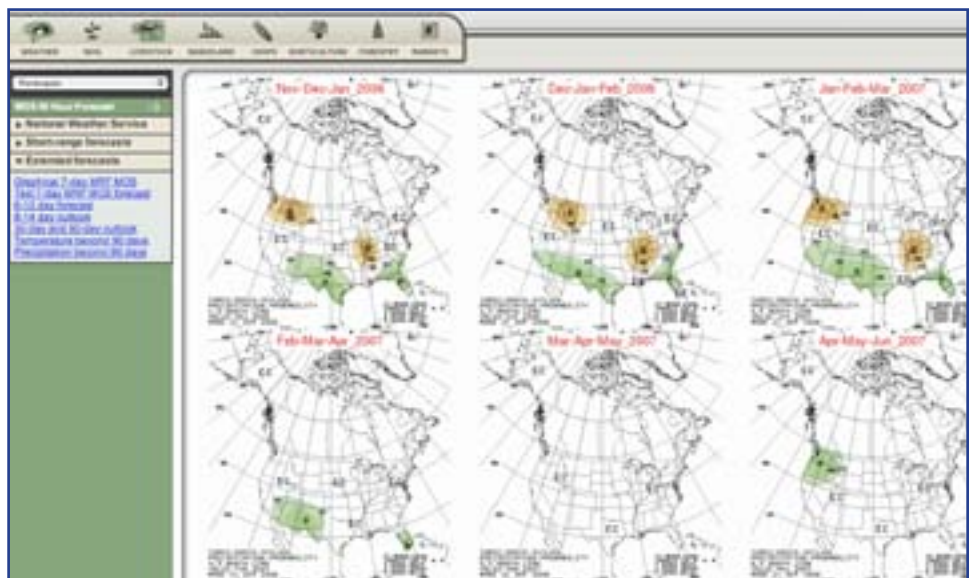
Forecast map

Another way to view the forecast is to look at a map that visually illustrates the forecast information. Choose the “Weather” button. Then select “Forecasts,” then “Short-range Forecast.” You can look at either a “12-hour National Forecast Map” or a “24-hour National Forecast Map.”



Extended forecast

Choose the “Weather” button. Then select “Forecasts,” and finally choose “Extended Forecasts.” This will offer a menu of several ways to view the extended forecast. The extended forecast that is shown to the right is the “Precipitation Beyond 90 Days.” It offers a precipitation forecast looking ahead a year.





OK-FIRE is a weather-based decision support system for wildland fire managers. OK-FIRE is currently password protected and, in order to use the site, a person must be invited to attend a one-day training workshop. Currently, the training workshops are restricted to 100 hand-selected wildland fire managers. Photo by Laura K. McKay

Introducing...

OK-FIRE

In late September, professionals at the Oklahoma Mesonet launched OK-FIRE, which is a weather-based Web site specifically designed for wildland fire managers.

“By developing OK-FIRE, I hoped to provide Oklahoma with a state-of-the-art fire management system,” said OSU fire meteorologist Dr. J.D. Carlson.


OK-FIRE was funded by a 3-year federal grant from the Joint Fire Science Program.

One hundred wildland fire managers from various federal and state agencies have been invited to attend the one-day training workshop.

These fire managers have begun to incorporate the Web site into their daily operations.

“OK-FIRE gives us the tools we need,” said Jay Pruett, Director of Conservation at the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy. “We absolutely love it. It’s a great asset we have here in Oklahoma.”

Currently, the Web site is restricted to federal and state officials who have been selected to participate in the training. It is not available for public use.

To learn more about weather-based decision support for fire, call J.D. Carlson at (405) 744-6353. 

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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