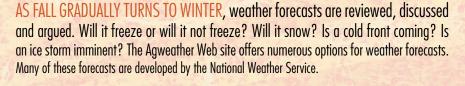
agweather connection

FARMFORECAST



"There are four National Weather Service offices that produce forecasts for Oklahoma's 77 counties," said Rick Smith, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service Norman Forecast Office. "There are about 10 forecasters for each office who work around the clock developing forecasts."

To create a forecast, meteorologists look at a large amount of information ranging from observations, weather balloons, radar, satellite and computer models, Smith said. They take this information and produce a forecast, which could be for 30 minutes into the future or up to 8 days. The Agweather Web site features the National Weather Service Forecast page, which presents a pictorial of the forecast as well as a detailed explanation. "This is a great one-stop shopping place to get you started," said Smith. "It gives you an overview of the weather in pictures and words."

Agweather also offers the National Weather Service <u>Hour-By-Hour Forecast</u> that can display up to nine variables including temperature, rain, relative humidity and wind. "This forecast is good for lots of different people. Anyone can use it," said Smith. "You can look at only what you are interested in and turn off all of the other stuff."

Another forecast option is the <u>National Weather Service Regional Outlook</u>. This forecast gives you a picture of the most important weather story that is happening, said Smith. It could be severe weather, wild fires, winter weather or simply a cold or warm front. "This is a very popular forecast," said Smith. "People are able to get a lot more out of these maps and pictures than they can out of just words."

Agweather also presents <u>long-range outlooks</u> that offer an idea of the weather up to more than a year in the future. The outlooks are developed by the Climate Prediction Center, a branch of the National Weather Service. These outlooks are less precise than forecasts and denote whether temperatures and precipitation will be above normal, below normal or if there is an equal chance of being above or below normal, said Smith.

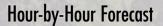
Because of the uncertainty of Oklahoma weather, forecasts offer a useful way to plan activities. The Agweather Web site takes a number of helpful, expert forecasts and packages them into one easy-to-use site.



FARM FORECAST

Forecast at a Glance

- Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org
- Make sure you have selected your closest Mesonet tower in the "Current Weather at" section on the right
- Select "Forecast" from the horizontal menu
- The forecast is automatically displayed. It shows the Forecast at a Glance at the top and the Detailed Forecast below



- Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org
- Make sure you have selected your closest Mesonet tower in the "Current Weather at" section on the right
- Select "Forecast" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "NAT. WEATHER SERVICE"
- Click "Hour-by-Hour Forecast" from the left menu
- This forecast allows you to check the items you are interested in looking or uncheck the items you do not wish to see

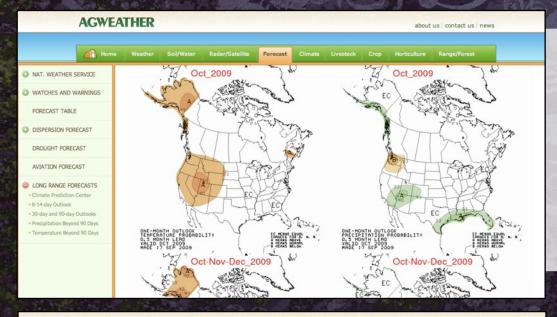
Regional Outlook

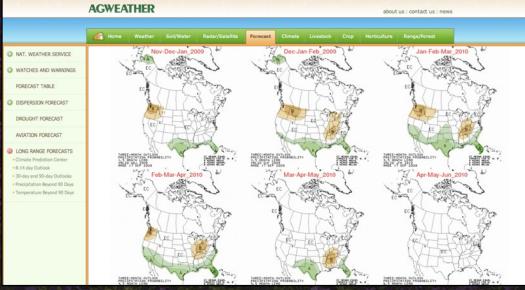
- Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org
- Make sure you have selected your closest Mesonet tower in the "Current Weather at" section on the right
- Select "Forecast" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "NAT. WEATHER SERVICE"
- Click "NWS Regional Outlook" from the left menu
- This forecast gives you a picture of the most important weather story that is happening

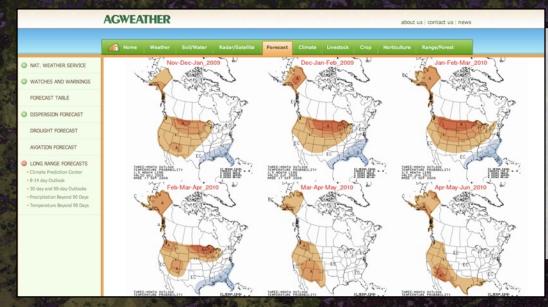












30- and 90-day Outlooks

- Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org
- Make sure you have selected your closest Mesonet tower in the "Current Weather at" section on the right
- Select "Forecast" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "LONG RANGE FORECASTS"
- Click "30-day and 90-day Outlooks"
- This outlook shows Temperature and Precipitation for 30 days and the next 90 days in the future

Precipitation Beyond 90 Days

- Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org
- Make sure you have selected your closest Mesonet tower in the "Current Weather at" section on the right
- Select "Forecast" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "LONG RANGE FORECASTS"
- Click "Precipitation Beyond 90 Days"
- This outlook shows precipitation for over a year into the future

Temperature Beyond 90 Days

- Start at http://agweather.mesonet.org
- Make sure you have selected your closest Mesonet tower in the "Current Weather at" section on the right
- Select "Forecast" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "LONG RANGE FORECASTS"
- Click "Temperature Beyond 90 Days"
- This outlook shows temperature for over a year into the future

