



New Forecast Section

–by Stephanie Bowen

Spring has arrived, and so has storm season. For many, that means monitoring the weather and forecast more. To help users prepare for storm season, the Oklahoma Mesonet is now providing a Forecast section on the website.

“We wanted to make it easier for our users to find forecast products on our website,” said Chris Fiebrich, Associate Director for the Oklahoma Mesonet. “We will slowly be migrating some current forecast products and new forecast products into a forecast tab on the website.”

Local forecasts are provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) specific to each Mesonet site. Long-range

forecasts (6-10 day outlooks and 8-14 day outlooks) are provided by the Climate Prediction Center.

Each local NWS forecast office also produces graphiccasts, graphical summaries of weather highlights for their forecast area. The Mesonet forecast section presents these in an easy to view thumbnail format.

“Over time, we plan to add dispersion forecast maps and tables, and the drift risk advisor,” Fiebrich said. ■



Local and Regional

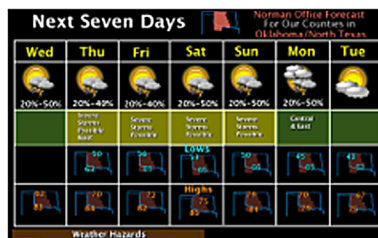
Change Mesonet Site Site Information Share Tweet

Forecast at a Glance for Norman

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Tomorrow Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
Slight Chance Tstms	Chance Tstms	Chance Tstms	Chance Tstms	Chance Tstms	Chance Tstms	Chance Tstms	Chance Tstms	Chance Tstms
High 72°F	Low 55°F	High 73°F	Low 63°F	High 71°F	Low 66°F	High 76°F	Low 64°F	High 79°F
Wind E at 12 mph	Wind SE at 12 mph	Wind SE to S at 13-17 mph	Wind S at 15-18 mph	Wind S at 14-16 mph	Wind S at 15-16 mph	Wind S at 11-13 mph	Wind S at 9-10 mph	Wind S at 13-19 mph

Forecast data provided by the [National Weather Service](#). Complete forecast available at [NWS Forecast](#) page.

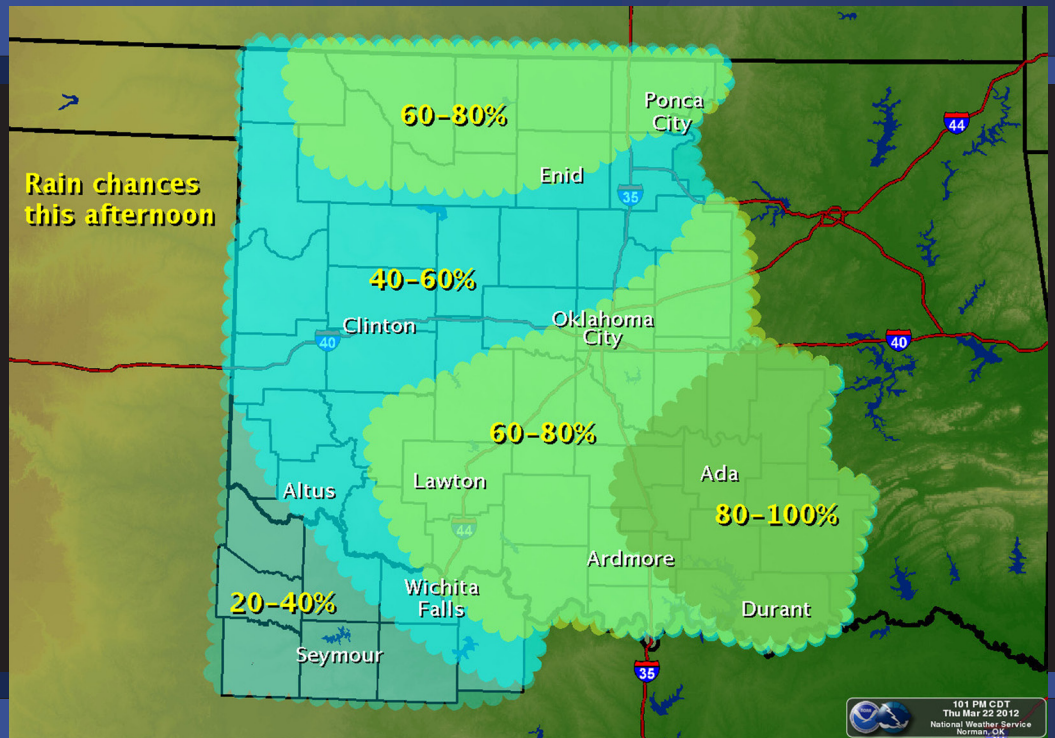
Graphiccasts from Norman, OK National Weather Service Office



MESONET IN PICTURES

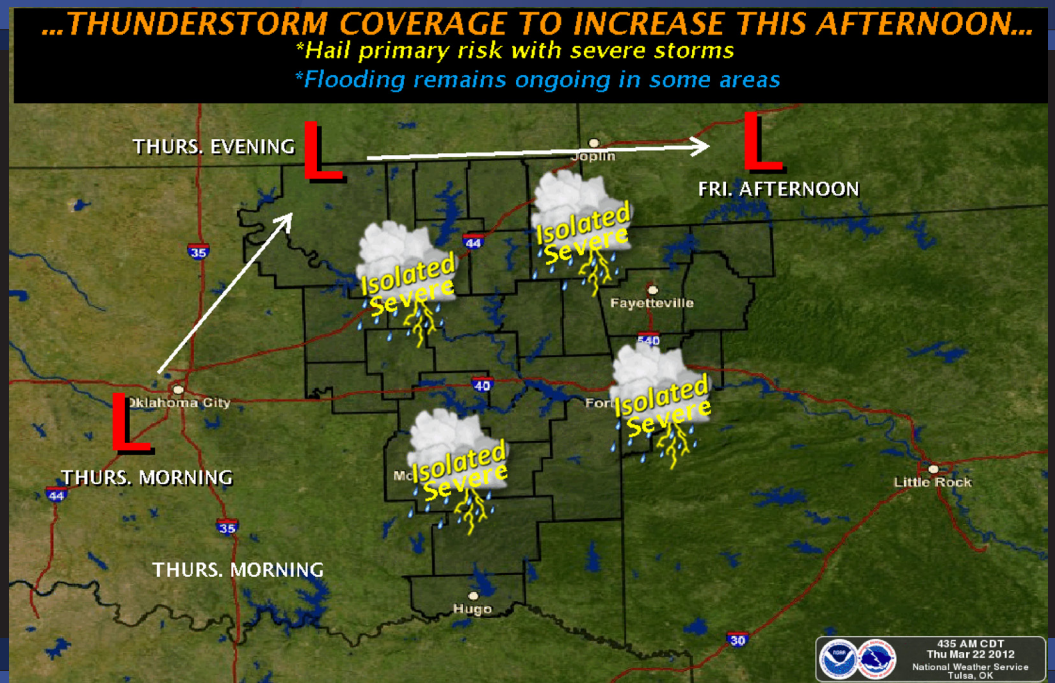
NWS Norman Graphiccast

- Each NWS regional office issues graphical short-term forecasts for their area. Graphiccasts may include afternoon outlooks, a seven day planner, fire danger graphs, and drought updates.



NWS Tulsa Graphiccast

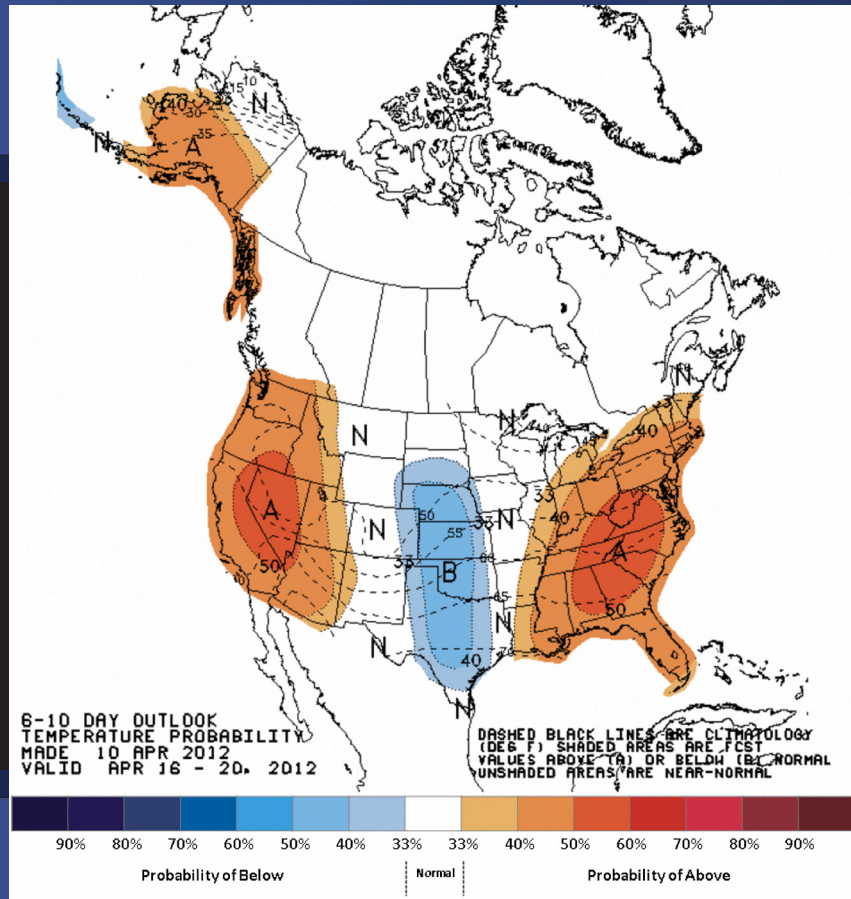
- Each NWS regional office issues graphical short-term forecasts for their area. Graphiccasts can range from rain chances to wildfire potential in a forecast area.



MESONET IN PICTURES

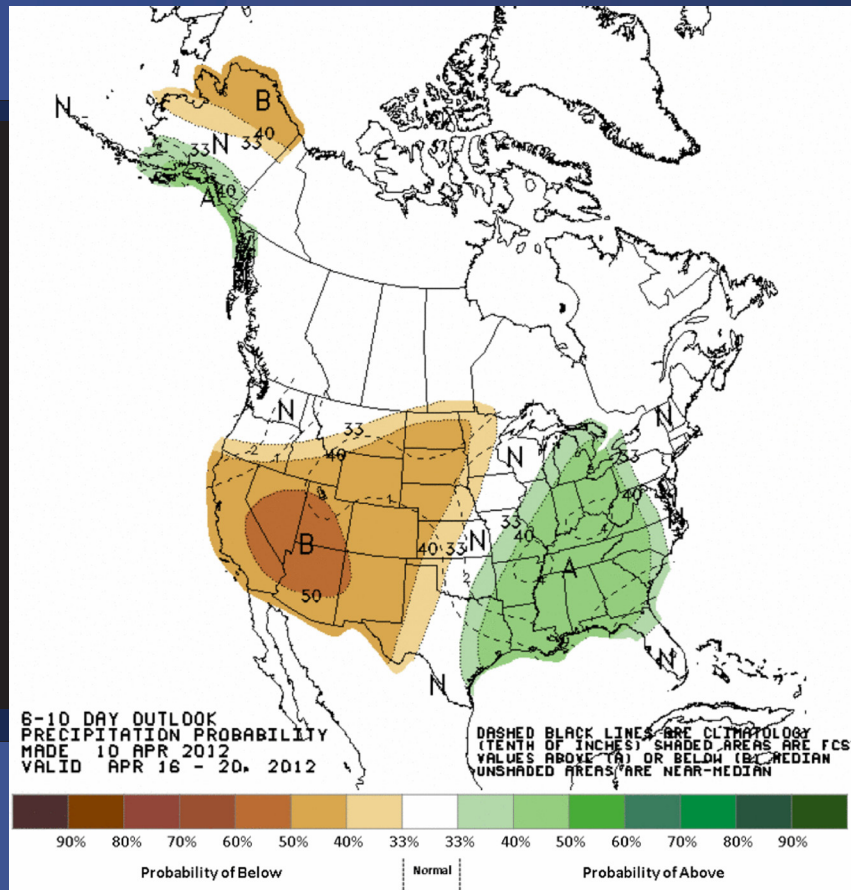
6-10 day Temperature Outlook

- The 6-10 day Temperature Outlook provided by the Climate Prediction Center gives a rating of A for Above normal, B for Below normal, and N for Near normal temperatures. Darker shaded areas indicate a higher probability of above or below normal temperatures.



6-10 day Precipitation Outlook

- The 6-10 day Precipitation Outlook provided by the Climate Prediction Center gives a rating of A for Above normal, B for Below normal, and N for Near normal precipitation. Darker shaded areas indicate a higher probability of above or below normal precipitation.



A Strengthening Partnership

—by Stephanie Bowen

Being located in the National Weather Center has its perks. Besides being in a state-of-the-art building, the Oklahoma Mesonet has opportunities to partner with offices within the building. One such partnership is with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Norman Forecast Office.

“We feel very fortunate to have the Mesonet in the state,” said Rick Smith, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the NWS Norman Forecast Office. “I have worked in other weather service offices in the country who are very jealous of not only the tangible benefits of the Mesonet data, but also the working relationship that we have.”

Forecasters use Mesonet data on a daily basis for a variety of purposes. It’s critical to know the location of weather features, such as fronts and dry lines, Smith said. It is also helpful in detecting hazardous weather such as damaging wind gusts and ice formation.

“The National Weather Service is extremely important in Mesonet operations,” said Gary McManus, Association State Climatologist at the Oklahoma Climatological Survey and Oklahoma Mesonet. “We also have a close relationship with them, sharing information between offices.”

For the western two-thirds of the state, several Mesonet sites are classified as COOP sites, which is part of the NWS National Cooperative Network. The Mesonet also provides official NWS forecasts to their users. There is a constant exchange of information back and forth.

“The relationship, being in the building together, is good to offer feedback and suggest services and new products,” Smith said. “In a lot of ways, the Mesonet is the cornerstone for our data in the state of Oklahoma and knowing what is going on.” ■





March Shatters Oklahoma Temperature Records

By Gary McManus, Associate State Climatologist

MARCH WRAP-UP

March might have entered like a lamb, but it exited like July, smashing temperature records in the process. The March statewide average temperature, as measured by the 120-station Oklahoma Mesonet, was more than 9 degrees above normal at 59.4 degrees. That eclipses the previous top mark of 58.3 degrees set in March 2007. Oklahoma statewide average climate statistics date back to 1895.

Not satisfied with being the warmest March on record, the month's temperature also topped well over half of the previous 117 Aprils in the record books. Beginning with March 2010, 19 of the past 24 months have finished warmer than normal. In addition to July and August of 2011, the March monthly heat record is the third in the last nine months. The state's January-March statewide average of 48.6 degrees is also tops in the record books at 5.9 degrees above normal.

Many individual locations broke records for the month. Oklahoma City and Tulsa both finished with their hottest Marches on record at 60.8 degrees and 61.5 degrees, respectively. The month's hottest day was also its last. The 90 degrees at Beaver on the 31st is the highest temperature recorded in the state since October 25, 2011, when Altus and Hollis reached 92 degrees. Cold weather still managed to make an appearance, albeit a brief one. The lowest temperature recorded by the Mesonet was 17 degrees at Boise City on the third. Nine Mesonet stations failed to see a low temperature touch the freezing mark, with many others only spending a few hours at 32 degrees or below.

Heavy rains during March built off steady moisture that began last October to deal a final blow to drought impacts that had plagued the state over the last 18 months. According to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report released on March 29, the area of the state completely free of drought rose from 34 percent to 76 percent during the month. The statewide average precipitation total finished at 4.5 inches to rank as the sixth wettest March on record, 1.4 inches above normal.

Eastern Oklahoma received 6-9 inches while radar estimates indicate as much as 10-12 inches may have fallen in localized areas. The National Weather Service cooperative observer at Spavinaw reported 9.97 inches of rain for the month. The western half of the state saw 2-6 inches in general. The Panhandle, still the area hit hardest by drought, received less than a half of an inch of rainfall in western Cimarron County to over 2 inches in Beaver County.

1st WARMEST

March since records began in 1895

9°F above normal

average temperature across
the state for March

4.5" RAINFALL

statewide average precipitation
for March

6th WETTEST

March since records began in 1895

CALENDAR

APRIL

- ▶ 3rd: OK-First Re-certification Class, Clinton
- ▶ 3rd: Mesonet presentation, OSU Pecan Management Course, Perkins
- ▶ 5th: Mesonet presentation, OSU Grape Management Course, Perkins
- ▶ 5th: EarthStorm Fieldtrip, Cooper Middle School, OKC
- ▶ 11th: EarthStorm Fieldtrip, Enid High School
- ▶ 19th: EarthStorm ScienceFest, OKC Zoo
- ▶ 19th-21st: Southern Plains Farm Show, OKC
- ▶ 23rd: Drought & ENSO presentation, OSU Cooperative Extension, Ardmore
- ▶ 26th: Drought & ENSO presentation, OSU Cooperative Extension, Enid

MAY

- ▶ 1st-2nd: Mesonet exhibit, State FFA Convention, OKC
- ▶ 3rd-4th: EarthStorm Fieldtrip, Sequoyah Middle School
- ▶ 22nd: Pottawotatomie County Cattlemen's Meeting, Shawnee

CONTACTS

Accessing recent (within the past 7 days)
Mesonet data

Contact: [Mesonet Operator](#)

Instrumentation, telecommunications, or
other technical specifications

Contact: [Chris Fiebrich](#)

Mesonet agricultural data and products

Contact: [Al Sutherland](#)

Mesonet meteorological data

Contact: [OCS Data Requests](#)

K-12 educational outreach

Contact: [Andrea Melvin](#)

OK-First

Contact: [James Hocker](#)

OK-FIRE

Contact: [J.D. Carlson](#)

Not sure?

Contact: 405-325-2541 or [Chris Fiebrich](#).

FORECAST FOR APRIL

[Click here to view the original maps from the Climate Prediction Center.](#)

