



NEW WEBSITE A CLICK AWAY

On Aug. 5, The Oklahoma Mesonet debuted a new and improved website at www.mesonet.org. The new website incorporates features Mesonet users have requested such as easy-to-use local forecasts, enhanced radar imagery, thumbnail weather maps and searchable data. The most exciting change is the fact that users no longer have to download any software, said Nathan Bain, Systems Engineer. "Weather maps and graphs no longer require special plug-in software, making them much easier to use," said Bain.

The website was tested for more than five months before going live. Feedback was collected, reviewed and applied to ensure

the Mesonet site was user-friendly. The transition from the old site to the new site was effortless, thanks to all of the testing, said Jared Bostic, System Administrator. "As the old-timers say 'measure twice, cut once.' Large amounts of testing and feedback, including testing by our Mesonet partners, helped eliminate even many of the little nit-picky type of issues," said Bostic.

Since the launch of the new website, there has been a noticeable increase in positive feedback from customers, as well as requests for new features, said Bostic. [Click here](#) to let us know what you think about the new website.

"The old page was great; the new one is spectacular! I love the functionality and the very intuitive displays and controls."

-Dan Hunter

"I just want to congratulate you on the new Mesonet site. It's simply great. You keep improving it year after year. As one who has used the site for years, I really appreciate all your hard work."

-Bob Bratton

"I really like the new site. It's easy to navigate and understand. Great information included. Thanks for the updated version. GREAT JOB!!!"

-Carolyn Cail

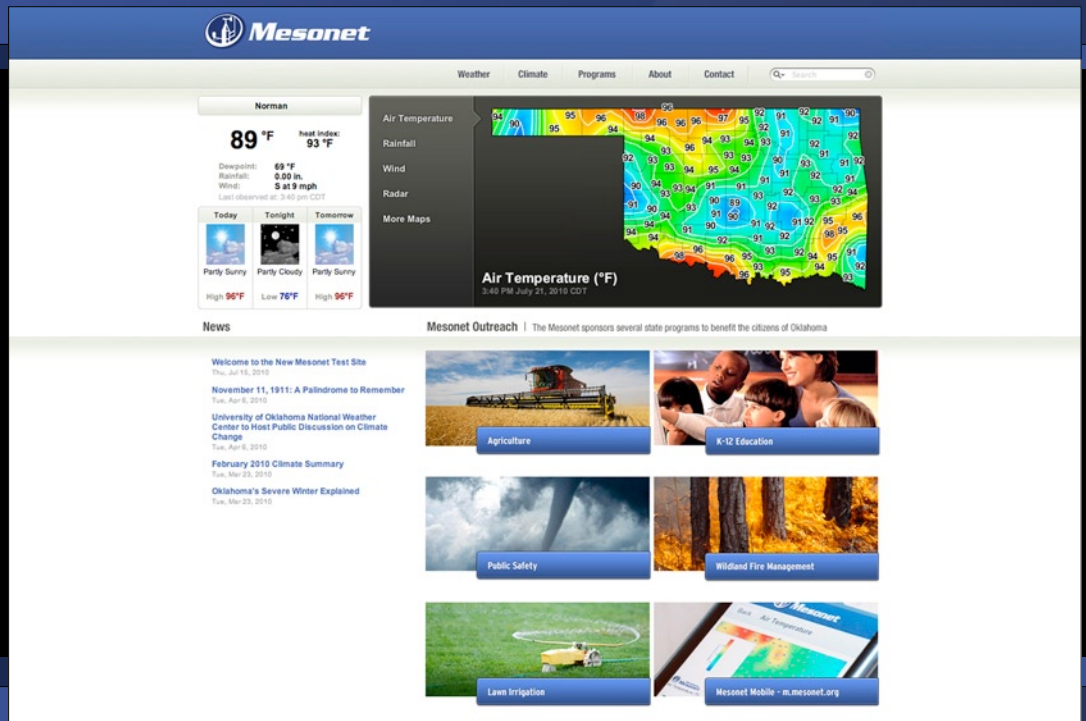
"Really like the new web site! Easy to use. Links are related and convenient. Lots of great data just a click away. Thanks."

-Chris Parrington

WHERE TO FIND IT

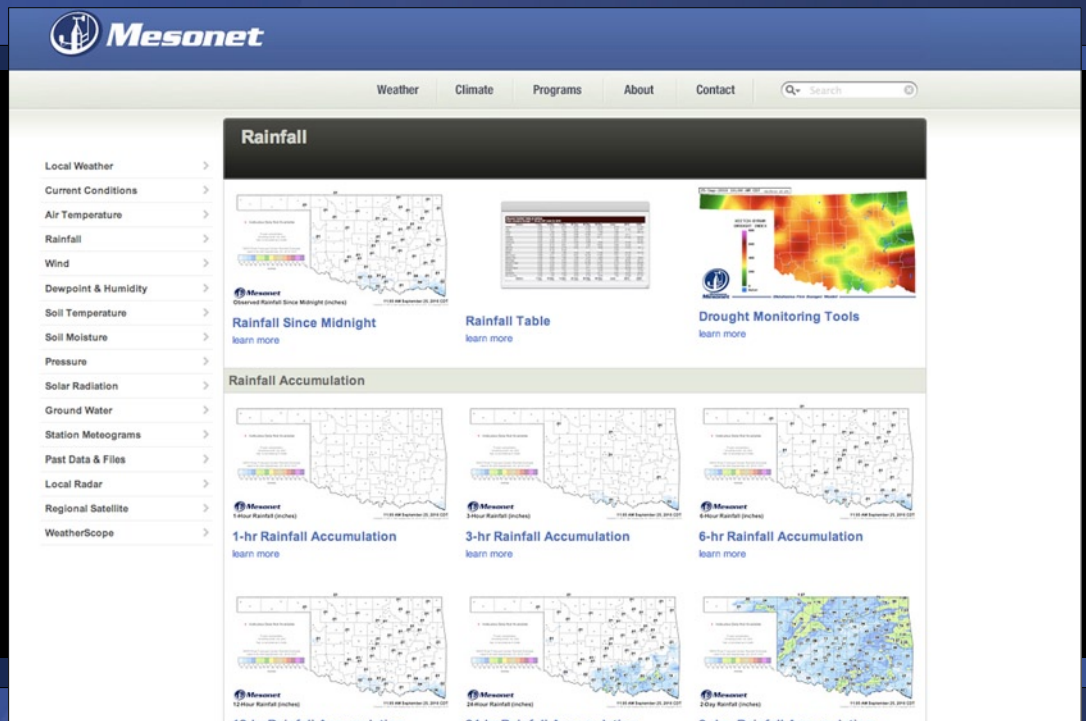
New and improved

- The web address is www.mesonet.org.
- The new Mesonet website proudly displays links to sites specially designed for agriculture, public safety, lawn irrigation, mobile data access, wildland fire management and K-12 education.
- The site also features a search component to help you quickly find maps and data.



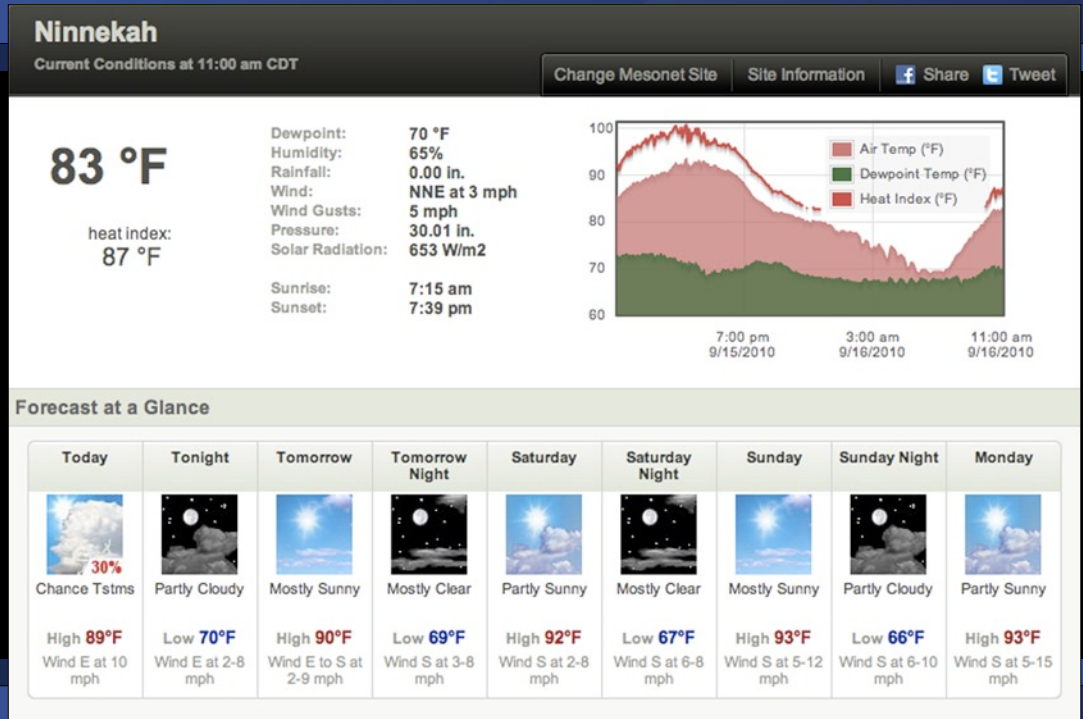
Thumbnail maps

- The new website features thumbnail images of weather maps.
- Visitors can use these maps to quickly decide which product they would like to view.
- The thumbnail maps can be found throughout the website.



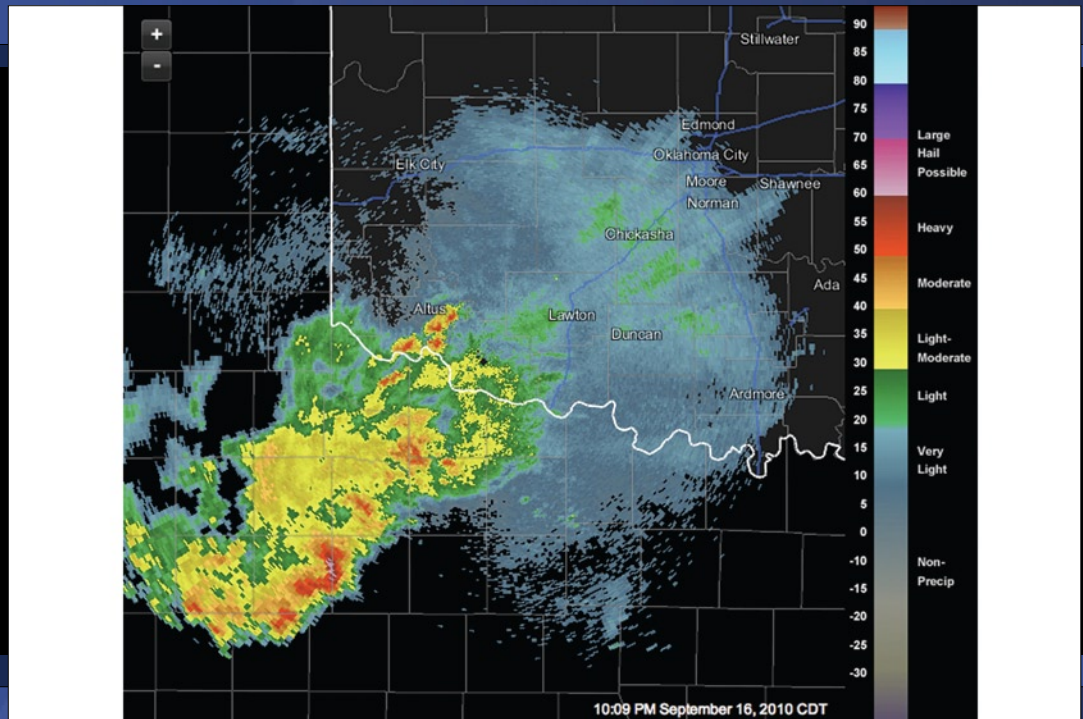
Local weather

- The home page offers a shortened version of the local weather.
- Make sure to customize the location by clicking the current displayed location. Then type in a city name or a zip code to find nearest Mesonet station.
- To see the expanded local weather, which is shown to the right, just click Weather.



Radar

- The new radar makes zooming and animating effortless.
- It also features an enhanced legend, which ranges from "non precipitation" to "large hail possible."
- To get there from the Mesonet home page, click Weather and then Local Radar.





Scorching August closes out hot summer

By Gary McManus, Associate State Climatologist

The end of August brings the climatological summer months (June-August) to a close and data from the Oklahoma Mesonet reveal the worst kept secret in the state – this summer was a hot one. Of course, with Oklahoma weather, the final picture is never that simple. The summer was actually composed of two acts. The first half of the summer was warm and wet, but not overly hot. While June finished as the seventh warmest on record, much of that warmth was due to higher overnight temperatures and was accompanied by plenty of rainfall for most areas. After mid-July, however, the rains ended and the blast furnace heat took hold. Even though July finished with normal temperatures, that fails to paint the true picture of the July heat. Once the rains ended, the sun went to work on the excess moisture and heat indices in the latter half of the month soared above 110 degrees in much of the state. Once that moisture was depleted, Oklahoma's summertime heat began in earnest.

The statewide average temperature during August was 83.4 degrees, 3 degrees above normal and the 18th warmest since records began in 1895. Only seven days failed to see a triple-digit temperature across the state during the month. The highest temperature of the month, 109 degrees, occurred at Freedom on the second and the 13th. Those two readings were the highest temperatures of the summer as well. The summer ended as the 12th warmest on record with a final statewide average temperature of 81.9 degrees, eclipsing normal by 2.3 degrees. The hottest location in the state during summer was Grandfield with an average temperature of 85 degrees. The coolest location was Boise City with an average temperature of 75.5 degrees.

Summertime rainfall marched to the same beat as the temperature. The statewide average rainfall for June and the first half of July was 7.61 inches, 2.31 inches above normal and ranked as the 13th wettest such period on record. Following that, the rainfall through the end of August averaged a scant 2.77 inches across the state, 1.66 inches below normal and the 20th driest on record. August itself was dry with a deficit of 1.96 inches to rank as the 35th driest on record. As a whole, summer finished 0.62 inches above normal at 10.39 inches, the 48th wettest summer on record. A couple of Oklahoma City stations took the rainfall trophies home. The Oklahoma City East Mesonet site recorded 19.02 inches of rainfall to lead the summer totals while the Oklahoma City North site had the highest single-day total with 11.26 inches on June 14.

109°F
REACHED
at Freedom on August 2 and 13,
the highest temperature of the summer

10.39
INCHES
of average rainfall fell across Oklahoma
this summer, 0.62 inches above normal

75.5°F
AVERAGE
temperature at Boise City this
summer, making it the coolest
location in the state

11.26
INCHES
of rainfall fell at the Oklahoma City
North site on June 14, making it the
highest single-day total



EMERGENCY WEATHER TRAINING

saving lives and property

The Oklahoma Mesonet has two programs that offer hands-on weather and software training. These programs provide tools to help foresee and prevent weather-related emergencies like this wreck caused by smoke drifting across Interstate 44.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

OK-FIRE provides training and weather information to wildland fire managers in Oklahoma. Designed for both wildfire and prescribed burning, OK-FIRE can help users anticipate periods of high fire danger, determine optimal staffing levels, and track weather conditions during a fire. The program has been developed over the past five years and workshops have been offered all over the state.

"We've trained about 600 fire professionals to date," said J.D. Carlson, OSU Fire Meteorologist. "We've had a wide range of people attend our training – ranging from federal agency personnel to state agency personnel to local fire departments and emergency managers to private landowners." The trainings will continue this fall at 17 locations across Oklahoma. Anyone who works with wildland fire is invited to attend. "We are trying to get folks to really understand the basics of fire weather, fire danger, and smoke dispersion and how to use the products and navigate the website," said Carlson.

Beginner and advanced workshops are being offered. The workshops are free and half-day in length. "In the introductory course, I give presentations on fire weather, fire danger and smoke dispersion, followed by a time of computer exercises," said Carlson. "In the advanced course, we will discuss details of the fire model, the importance of greenness and fuel models, as well as spend more time on forecasts and other sections of the website." To learn more about the workshops, [click here](#) or select Wildland Fire Management from www.mesonet.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY

For more than a decade, OK-First has been helping public safety officials prepare for weather emergencies. The program has forged relationships between emergency management, higher education and the weather community in hopes of protecting Oklahomans' safety. About 200 agencies in and around Oklahoma actively participate in OK-First training, including emergency managers, police, firefighters and government officials.

"Training is available to anyone with jurisdictional authority like someone who dispatches personnel or blows the sirens," said Nicole Giuliano, program manager for public safety outreach. "Also, you must have the blessing of someone higher on the local government food chain like the mayor, city manager or sheriff. There is an application process and it is competitive."

Topics covered during the workshop include radar, lightning, upper-air observations, Mesonet data, National Weather Service forecasts and warnings, weather hazards, and case studies. Fully certified participants are provided an agency username and password to log on to the OK-First website. The site offers weather products and decision guides specifically arranged for severe weather, winter weather, fire weather, heat and drought, and flooding. OK-First training is held both in the spring and in the fall, and sign-ups are required in advance. "Space is limited, so please apply soon," said Giuliano. The workshops are free and held in a computer lab. To learn more about OK-First training, select Public Safety from www.mesonet.org.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- ▶ 10.22.10 : Mesonet Steering Committee meeting, Stillwater, Okla. For information, call 405-325-2541
- ▶ 10.26.10 & 10.27.10: Governor's Water Conference, Midwest City, Okla. For information, call Maggie Hoey at 405-325-3126

NOVEMBER

- ▶ 11.2.10 to 11.4.10 : Oklahoma Ag Expo, Oklahoma City. For information, call Maggie Hoey at 405-325-3126
- ▶ 11.6.10: National Weather Festival, Norman, Okla. For information, call Maggie Hoey at 405-325-3126
- ▶ 11.19.10: Oklahoma Farm Bureau Conference, Oklahoma City, Okla. For information, call Maggie Hoey at 405-325-3126

DECEMBER

- ▶ 12.24.10 to 12.31.10: Mesonet offices will be closed for the holidays

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: [Nicole Giuliano](#)

OK-FIRE

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

Not sure?

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

FORECAST FOR OCTOBER

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

- Chance for above average temperatures
- Chance for below average precipitation