

# Forecasts

article revised Septembet 2012

Oklahoma is known for quick-changing weather patterns. This makes predicting weather difficult, and forecasts are often reviewed, discussed and argued. Will it rain? How much? Will it freeze? When is the cold front coming?

## Creating forecasts

To create a forecast, meteorologists look at a large amount of information ranging from observations, weather balloons, radar, satellite and computer models. They use this information to produce forecasts, which could be for 30 minutes into the future or up to 8 days. "Outlooks" show long range weather trends weeks or months into the future.

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

## Forecast products

The Mesonet website's "Forecast" tab at [www.mesonet.org](http://www.mesonet.org) features the National Weather Service (NWS) "Forecast at a Glance" which presents a condensed forecast for five days and nights.

Below the Forecast at a Glance is a link to the NWS "complete forecast" and Hourly Forecast "graph" or "table". Forecast weather variables are graphed over time so you can easily see trends and changes. This product allows you to turn off or back on the weather variables that are relevant to you.

Graphiccasts, from the NWS forecast office, give you a regional picture of the most important weather story that is happening. It could be severe weather, wild fires, winter weather or simply a cold or warm front.

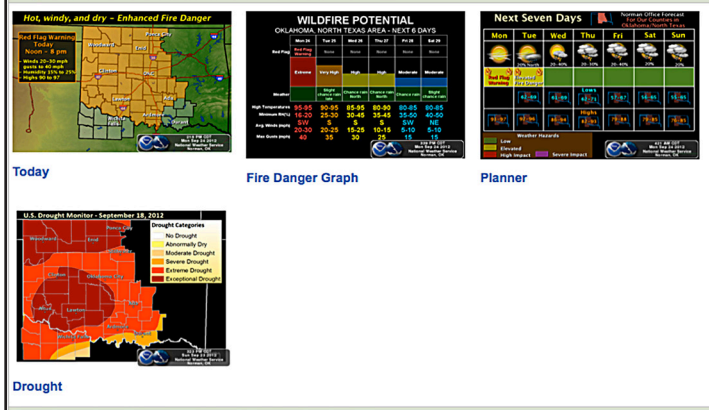
Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Tomorrow Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Breezy	Slight Chance Tstms	Breezy	Slight Chance Tstms	Slight Chance Tstms	Slight Chance Tstms	Slight Chance Tstms
High 95°F	Low 68°F	High 92°F	Low 67°F	High 91°F	Low 68°F	High 88°F	Low 63°F	High 64°F
Wind S at 16 mph	Wind S at 19 mph	Wind S at 17-22 mph	Wind S at 14-16 mph	Wind S at 9-20 mph	Wind S at 7-8 mph	Wind S at 6-10 mph	Wind S at 7 mph	Wind S to SW at 7 mph



## Graphiccasts

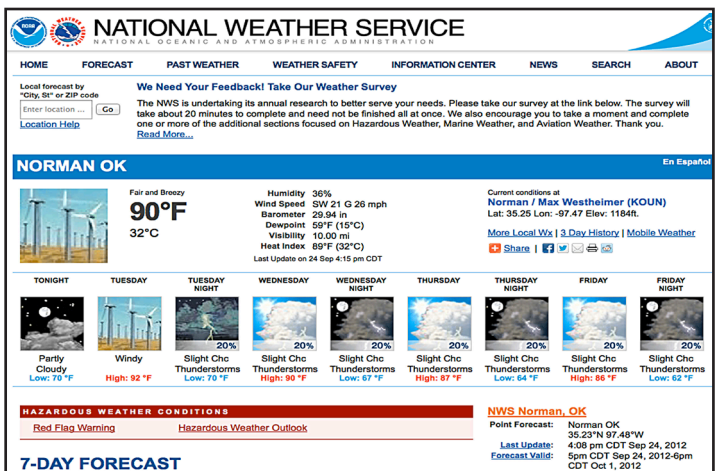
- Start at [www.mesonet.org](http://www.mesonet.org)
- Make sure you have selected your closest Mesonet station.
- Select the “Forecast” tab at the top of the page
- Scroll down to view “Graphiccasts” from your regional NWS forecast office.
- Graphiccasts give you a picture of the most important current weather story from a regional perspective.

### Graphiccasts from Norman, OK National Weather Service Office



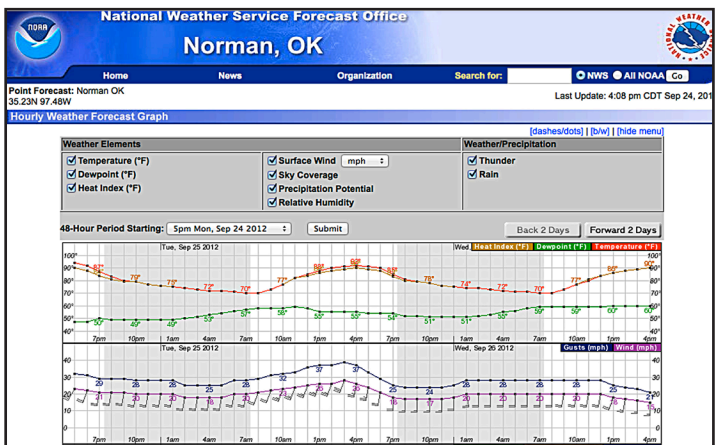
## Complete Forecast

- Start at [www.mesonet.org](http://www.mesonet.org)
- Make sure you have selected your closest Mesonet station.
- Select the “Forecast” tab at the top of the page.
- The forecast is automatically displayed. The Forecast at a Glance is displayed at the top.
- Select “complete forecast” beneath the Forecast at a Glance to go to the National Weather Service point forecast page for the selected Mesonet site.



## Hourly Forecast

- Start at [www.mesonet.org](http://www.mesonet.org)
- Make sure you have selected your closest Mesonet station.
- Select the “Forecast” tab at the top of the page
- Click the Hourly Forecast “graph” or “table” below the Forecast at a Glance.
- This forecast allows you to turn off the weather variables you do not wish to see.



# Our Story

The Oklahoma Mesonet is a world-class network of environmental monitoring stations. The network was designed and implemented by scientists at the University of Oklahoma (OU) and at Oklahoma State University (OSU).

The Oklahoma Mesonet consists of 120 automated stations covering Oklahoma. There is at least one Mesonet station in each of Oklahoma’s 77 counties.

At each site, the environment is measured by a set of instruments located on or near a 10-meter-tall tower. The measurements are packaged into “observations” every 5 minutes, then the observations are transmitted to a central facility every 5 minutes, 24 hours per day year-round.

For help with this or other Mesonet products, please call 405-325-3231, or email us at [operator@mesonet.org](mailto:operator@mesonet.org).



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