

FREE CLIMATE WEB SITE ANSWERS ALL YOUR QUESTIONS

**By Mark Shafer
Senior Staff Climatologist
Oklahoma Climatological Survey**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4/24/2002

NORMAN - If you have ever wondered how much rain fell in your county, and how that differs from normal, you should visit the Oklahoma Climatological Survey's (OCS) new climate web pages. These web pages provide free access to a wide range of Oklahoma's climate information, from the early days of statehood to yesterday's rainfall. All of this information is available at the click of a mouse, at <http://climate.ocs.ou.edu/>.

This site offers a look at what is 'normal' in Oklahoma, including statewide and county-level maps and tables of precipitation, snowfall, temperature, dates of first and last freezes, and hail and tornadoes event information. If you want to answer the question: 'what year had the most number of tornadoes?' just click on 'Normals and Extremes' for the answer. If you wish to find the normal monthly rainfall for your county, you may view the 'Climatological Means' section.

The 'normals' only tell part of the story. The Oklahoma Climatological Survey has monitored years when half of the year is wet and half the year is dry – that comes out to near normal when averaged. Look at our 'Rainfall Update' section to see where and when the rain fell, ranging from the last week to the year so far. The site offers rainfall totals for each of Oklahoma's 115 Mesonet stations – at least one site in each county – and a host of maps and tables showing where the rain has fallen in the current season, year, growing season, and water year. For example, the tables show that even though the state overall is right at normal precipitation for the year, the Panhandle has received only 39% of its normal rainfall.

The web site also provides a host of documents about Oklahoma's climate. OCS Monthly Summaries, which document the weather and climate for each month, are available, as is our latest series 'Event Summaries.' The event summaries, beginning with the January 2002 ice storm, document weather-related events that have a significant effect on the state. For those wanting to look back at Oklahoma's weather and climate history, see our 'Weather Timeline'. The site lets you browse through the history by each decade, or pull up a single document that provides a comprehensive history of Oklahoma's weather extremes.

Can't find what you need from the site? Then just click on the OCS logo at the bottom and it will take you to our home page, where you can contact us via e-mail or a phone call. If you need weather or climate information that isn't on the web somewhere, we probably can provide it special-order for you.

Media contact:

The Oklahoma Climatological Survey
Cerry Leffler
100 E. Boyd, Suite 1210
Norman, OK 73019-1012
405-325-2541
405-325-2550 (fax)
cerry@ou.edu

