

### The Kentucky Climate Center: An Overview of Assets

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Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group April 29, 2015



## Kentucky Climate Center (KCC) Assets



- The KCC serves as the State Climate Office for Kentucky and is affiliated with a tiered network consisting of State Climate Offices, Regional Climate Centers, and the National Centers for Environmental Information (formerly the National Climatic Data Center)
  - The Kentucky Mesonet, a statewide infrastructure for weather and climate monitoring was built and is operated by the KCC
- The KCC has expertise in meso-scale atmospheric modeling and weather forecasting using models that leverage WKU's High Performance Computing Cluster
- The KCC leverages WKU's Meteorology Program, which includes 6 Ph.D. faculty and approximately 50 undergraduate students

Drought of 2012



# Agriculture



Drought of 2012



#### Palmer Drought Severity Index Western Climate Division, KY







## **Continental Evolution of 2012 Drought**



Drought of 2012

#### AMJ and JAS Precipitation, 1895-2011







#### <u>Notes</u>

- Vertical blue line represents average<sup>1</sup> AMJ precipitation.
- Horizontal blue line represents average<sup>1</sup> JAS precipitation.
- Vertical red line represents actual 2012 AMJ precipitation.
- Dashed red line represents precipitation for JAS of 2012 required to bring the combined AMJ and JAS total to the average<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup> Average is defined as the arithmetic mean of the climate division values for 1895 through 2011.





## Dimensions of the 2012 Drought



Mayfield, Graves County July 27, 2012

#### **Graves County**

- 3.22" Precipitation on March 8<sup>th</sup>
- 4.40" Precipitation for the entire spring season
- 99.4° Average high temperature from June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 8<sup>th</sup>



#### Historical Context for the Drought of 2012

KENTUCKY

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#### Kentucky's Western Climate Division



#### KENTUCKY CLIMATE CENTER

## Synoptic Precipitation Pattern in Late July



July 24, 2012

#### Drought of 2012

## Evolution of the 2012 Drought in Kentucky





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Kentucky's diverse terrain creates distinct local vulnerabilities to weather and climate





# Funding

- Construction Phase
  - Approximately \$3,000,000 project funded through the National Weather Service to the Kentucky Climate Center
- Operational Phase
  - WKU
  - Federal
  - State
  - Local

#### The Western Kentucky University

News Release

News & Events
Media Relations
News Archives
Photo Gallery
Echo Magazine
WKU Calendars
WKU Home

#### Kentucky Mesonet Recognized As Official Climate Data Source

April 06, 2006

Bowling Green, Ky. - Gov. Ernie Fletcher has signed a resolution recognizing the Kentucky Mesonet as the official source of climatological observations for the state.



## Across the Commonwealth

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#### Kentucky Mesonet Coverage Map







### **Vertically Integrated System**



# High-Quality Sites for High-Quality Data







Sites are representative of their surrounding areas





## **Site Selection Activities**

Site selection decisions combine information from site surveys with input from NWS representatives and local officials



Temperature	40
Precipitation	30
Wind	12
Soil	15
Total	97



Plateau, 1003'

Valley, 554'



## **Paired Sites**

- Areas of complex topography cannot be well represented by a single site
- The most representative site may not be the nearest site
- An example is provided by the paired stations in Metcalfe County and Cumberland County



## Layout for Solar-powered Site



- A. Wind Monitor
- B. Relative Humidity Sensor
- C. Datalogger Enclosure
- D. Temperature Sensors
- E. Pyranometer
- F. Wetness Sensor
- G. Single Alter Shield
- H. Precipitation Gauge
- I. Battery Enclosure
- J. Solar Panel

*Guy wires not shown. Drawing not to scale* 





### **Station Installation and Maintenance**

- Technicians install stations and instrumentation
- Technicians make spring, summer, and winter maintenance passes
- Technicians respond to "trouble tickets" when QA processes indicate problems



## Design Criteria Emphasize Quality and Reliability



Temperature



Precipitation

#### Sensor Package

- Air temperature
- Precipitation
- Solar radiation
- Relative humidity
- Wind speed & direction
- Soil moisture & temperature\*

\* selected sites



# **Preparation for Soil Monitoring**



- A soil scientist on site during takes soil samples in conjunction with the installation of soil probes
- Soil samples are subsequently analyzed in a laboratory to produce a detailed pedon description



## Installation of Soil Probes

- The soil plot hole is excavated at 130° and 10 feet from the tower base
- A *Stevens Hydraprobe II* is installed at each of five depths: 2", 4", 8", 20", and 40"
- Probes are installed into the side of the hole to ensure placement in undisturbed soil, except the sensor at 40" is installed straight down at the bottom of the hole
- The hole is backfilled progressively as each sensor is installed and the sensor cable is manipulated near the sensor head to ensure that the it will not act as a conduit for water to pool at the head of the probe





### Metadata Database

KENTUCKY

	Equipment History										
	Calibration History										
			Performed By	Calibration Location	Equipment Used	Variable	Equation	Manage Sites			
	2008-04-04 16:55:0	Dana Grabowski	KYMN LAB	Fluke 7380 High Pre	TA01	0.9968X+-0.0511					
		2008-04-04 16:55:0	Dana Grabowski	KYMN LAB	Fluke 7380 High Pre	TA02	0.9968X+-0.0511	Manage Equipment			
Manage Sites					User: aquilligan		0,9968X+-0.0511				
Add/Modify Collection Site	Add Non-Collection Site	s Site Pass Site Sta	itus		KYMN	<b>•</b>					
Move Equipment At S											
All Sites Russellville 2 W					Manage Equip	ment 1	19:34:00				
Manufacturer	Model	Serial No	Vendor	Туре		3	20:04:00				
AirLink	Raven Edge E3214	0638149585	Campbell Scientifi	c Cellula	r Modem	A 3	19:34:00				
Vaisala	VRG101	B45102	Vaisala	Weighi	ng Bucket						
Campbell Scientific	CR3000-XT-SW-NB-NC	1353	Campbell Scientifi	Microlo	gger	=					
Thermometrics	316-125-1000CR-385-4-TL3	7	Thermometrics	PRT	PRT		l time in field: 911+ days				
Kyocera	KC125TM	058101920	Solar Craft		Solar Panel		Location				
Kyocera	KC125TM	058101359	Solar Craft	Solar P	Panel		Bowling Green 5 S				
R M Young Company	05103-5	WM00075165	R.M. Young		Wind Monitor		Laboratory				
Vaisala	HMP45C	B3220026	Campbell Scientific Ten		emp/RH probe						
^^ Move Up ^^ Vv M	ove Down vv Effective Time	December 🔻 16	▼ 2010 <b>▼</b>	19 🔻 : 59 🔹	UTC	1000					
Non-Collection Site Labora	tory 🔻										
Manufacturer	Model	Serial No	Vendor	Туре							
Thermometrics	316-125-1000CR-385-4-TL3	134	Thermometrics	PRT							
R M Young Company	05103-5	WM00075175	R.M. Young		d Monitor						
Thermometrics	316-125-1000CR-385-4-TL3	138	Thermometrics	PRT	PRT						
Vaisala	HMP45C	B3230034	Campbell Scientific		Temp/RH probe						
Met-One Instruments	076-В	F7077	Met-One Instruments Asp		pirated Shield						
Thermometrics	ometrics 316-125-1000CR-385-4-TL3 9		Thermometrics PRT		т						
Thermometrics	316-125-1000CR-385-4-TL3	8	Thermometrics		RT						
R M Young Company	05103-5	WM00075174	R.M. Young	Wind M	Ionitor						
Apogee Instruments Inc.	PYR-P	4048	Apogee	Silicon	Pyranometer						

#### **Network Communications**

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### **Quality Assurance Procedures**



- Automated QA runs on fiveminute data as they are collected from remote sites
- Manual QA is implemented on a daily basis to provide expert assessment of system performance

#### **Meteorological Database**

KYMN, ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 11:15:00", "2010-05-01 06:15:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 05:15:00 CST", 69.435, 78.7, 9.58, 171.4, 14.76, 173.8, 9.39, 0.0000 KYMN, ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 11:20:00", "2010-05-01 06:20:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 05:20:00 CST", 69.603, 78.4, 11.68, 172.0, 18.70, 169.7, 9.23, 0.0000 KYMN, ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 11:25:00", "2010-05-01 06:25:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 05:25:00 CST", 69.530, 78.7, 9.31, 168.7, 15.64, 174.6, 9.88, 0.0000 KYMN, ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 11:30:00", "2010-05-01 06:30:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 05:30:00 CST", 69.563, 78.6, 9.36, 173.0, 15.56, 179.9, 11.37, 0.0000 KYMN,ALBN,TBL 5min,"2010-05-01 11:35:00","2010-05-01 06:35:00 CDT","2010-05-01 05:35:00 CST",69.685,78.4,9.85,185.0,15.13,191.5,18.62,0.0000 KYMN ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 11:40:00", "2010-05-01 06:40:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 05:40:00 CST", 69.819, 78.4, 10.14, 186.0, 14.54, 218.8, 27.18, 0.0000 ALEN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 11:45:00", "2010-05-01 06:45:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 05:45:00 CST", 69.697, 78.7, 9.78, 181.3, 15.35, 176.3, 39.70, 0.0000 KYMN "2010-05-01 11:50:00", "2010-05-01 06:50:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 05:50:00 CST", 69.768, 78.7, 11.54, 180.8, 16.52, 178.5, 54.86, 0.0000 ALBN,TBL 5min,"2010-05-01 11:55:00","2010-05-01 06:55:00 CDT","2010-05-01 05:55:00 CST",69.827,79.0,11.24,174.2,18.28,177.0,61.12,0.0000 CDT", "2010-05-01 bservations are taken every 5 minutes Each station collects over 105,000 observations each on returns over 2,730,000 data values CDT", "2010-05-01 CDT", "2010-05-01 07:40:00 9.76.33.4.15.78.29.3.17.30.0.0075 CDT", "2010-05-01 07:50:00 CST", 63.601, 92.3, 4.94, 333.7, 11.69, 352.1, 3.46, 0.0055 ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 13:50:00","2010-05-01 08:50:00 13:55:00","2010-05-01 08:55:00 CDT","2010-05-01 07:55:00 CST", 63.360, 93.7, 8.65, 277.6, 13.30, 267.7, 4.94, 0.0000 KYMN ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 KYMN ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:00:00", "2010-05-01 09:00:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:00:00 CST", 63.031, 95.5, 8.67, 260.5, 13.52, 263.5, 12.52, 0.0075 KYMN ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:05:00", "2010-05-01 09:05:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:05:00 CST", 62.747, 96.5, 6.38, 234.9, 9.28, 242.9, 7.74, 0.2417 KYMN ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:10:00", "2010-05-01 09:10:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:10:00 CST", 62.683, 96.8, 3.83, 199.5, 7.02, 221.7, 7.25, 0.1386 KYMN, ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:15:00", "2010-05-01 09:15:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:15:00 CST", 62.636, 97.0, 2.59, 144.1, 4.24, 134.5, 7.09, 0.0622 ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:20:00", "2010-05-01 09:20:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:20:00 CST", 62.559, 97.2, 2.78, 89.4, 6.43, 105.1, 12.19, 0.0457 KYMN KYMN, ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:25:00", "2010-05-01 09:25:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:25:00 CST", 62.621 97.4,5.21,97.7,7.67,98.1,16.81,0.0169 KYMN ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:30:00", "2010-05-01 09:30:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:30:00 CST", 62.676, 97.4, 5.28, 97.7, 6.65, 87.7, 22.74, 0.0150 ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:35:00", "2010-05-01 09:35:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:35:00 CST", 63.001, 97.2, 3.18, 121.4, 5.70, 103.8, 28.01, 0.0126 KYMN ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:40:00", "2010-05-01 09:40:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:40:00 CST", 63.127, 96.7, 3.38, 133.0, 4.17, 117.5, 30.98, 0.0094 KYMN ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:45:00", "2010-05-01 09:45:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:45:00 CST", 63.066, 96.5, 4.11, 159.0, 6.21, 148.4, 36.58, 0.0110 KYMN 14:50:00", "2010-05-01 09:50:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:50:00 CST", 62.905, 96.7, 4.07, 147.8, 5.77, 121.1, 35.43, 0.0122 KYMN, ALBN, TBL 5min, "2010-05-01 14:55:00", "2010-05-01 09:55:00 CDT", "2010-05-01 08:55:00 CST", 62.875, 96.8, 2.55, 139.6, 4.17, 146.7, 38.07, 0.0138



#### Kentucky Mesonet News

New kymesonet.org Website

Welcome to the newest edition of the Kentucky Mesonet's website. If you would like a quick tour <u>click here</u>. If you are experiencing any visual weirdness try clearing your browsers cache+cookies. A big thanks to everyone who took the time to help with our beta testing and providing feedback, we really appreciate your help!



Franklin County / Frankfort, KY (7 S) Mesonet Site

Western Kentucky University - Kentucky Mesonet - 1906 College Heights Blvd #31066 - Bowling Green, KY 42101 - 270.745.4567 - kymesonet@wku.edu



report a bug



		С	ampb	ell Co	unty (H	HTS)	~	MA	Y 💌	2012	<b>v</b> (	Select				
Monthly Climatological Summary							ıry	Statio	n ID:	HHTS						
								Relative Location:				Alexandria 5 NW				
(5/2012)								County:				Campbell County				
	KENTUCKY							*Location:				Lat: 39.02°; Lon: -84.47°				
		ME	SOL	VET.	-11			Elevation:				838 ft.				
							Observation Day:					Eastern Standard Time				
	-10 treater titeorean															
		Temperature (°F)				Degre	e Days	s Humidity (%)			Wind Speed (mph) and				Solar	
Day	Date		,							Precip	Direction				(MJ/	
		Max	Min	Avg	Dwpt	HDD	CDD	Max	Min	(incit)	Dir	Spd.	Spd.	3-sec	m <sup>2</sup> )	
TUE	1	78.0	61.6	69.8	62.5	0	5	98	66	0.83	SE	1.8	3.7	22.8	17.2	
WED	2	85.2	60.6	72.9	62.4	0	8	<u>99</u>	43	0.00	SSE	2.8	4.5	19.4	26.4	
THU	3	83.1	64.9	74.0	63.5	0	9	92	49	0.00	SSE	2.7	3.7	15.1	23.9	
FRI	4	80.9	64.9	72.9	64.1	0	8	93	58	0.02	S	1.9	2.9	13.4	17.8	
SAT	5	77.3	63.9	70.6	64.2	0	6	98	60	0.61	N	1.5	3.0	11.8	15.6	
SUN	6	81.0	58.3	69.7	60.4	0	5	96	42	0.00	ENE	1.3	2.6	8.5	26.2	
MON	7	82.7	63.5	73.1	63.0	0	8	98	47	0.55	SE	2.8	4.3	21.3	23.8	
TUE	8	70.7	59.3	65.0	57.0	0	0	99	53	0.21	WNW	3.4	4.3	15.8	17.4	
WED	9	68.7	52.8	60.8	45.6	4	0	81	32	0.00	WNW	5.6	5.7	24.0	23.9	
THU	10	66.6	45.6	56.1	39.1	9	0	83	31	0.00	NW	4.6	5.2	18.8	30.1	
FRI	11	71.4	43.1	57.6	37.9		0	89	22	0.00	SE	2.8	3.3	12.5	31.0	
SAL	12	60.5	40.4	59.9	40.7	5	0	00	29	4.54	SE E	2.4	2.0	11.0	20.1	
MON	14	73.1	58.1	65.6	56.7	0	1	90	10	0.00	NNE	3.0	3.5	15.6	21.3	
TUF	15	77.9	54.4	66.1	55.1	0	1	98	33	0.00	SSE	17	2.6	11.3	27.1	
WED	16	79.4	58.6	69.0	51.5	0	4	87	34	0.02	NNW	1.4	4.7	20.8	24.8	
THU	17	70.2	52.1	61.1	35.8	4	0	60	23	0.00	ENE	5.5	5.7	22.0	31.9	
FRI	18	77.7	49.1	63.4	44.0	2	0	79	27	0.00	E	1.8	2.7	9.5	31.3	
SAT	19	82.6	54.2	68.4	52.0	0	3	91	24	0.00	E	0.9	2.0	11.3	30.5	
SUN	20	83.7	60.3	72.0	55.7	0	7	89	32	0.00	ESE	2.1	3.0	16.7	29.4	
MON	21	80.2	60.1	70.2	57.9	0	5	94	48	0.30	WNW	3.5	4.8	23.9	26.5	
TUE	22	70.7	56.9	63.8	56.5	1	0	91	60	0.00	NNW	3.0	3.5	12.4	14.8	
WED	23	76.0	57.1	66.5	58.2	0	2	97	50	0.00	ESE	0.6	2.4	9.8	18.7	
THU	24	81.7	59.6	70.7	59.6	0	6	96	43	0.00	SE	4.9	5.1	18.5	26.5	
FRI	25	86.0	65.2	75.6	62.1	0	11	77	46	0.00	SSE	3.7	4.2	14.8	24.9	
SAT	26	88.1	68.3	78.2	65.2	0	13	92	40	0.00	SE	2.6	2.8	11.1	29.3	
SUN	27	87.9	68.4	78.1	66.2	0	13	96	41	0.00	SE	2.6	2.9	10.2	27.6	
TUE	20	<u>88.1</u>	70.4	79.3	67.5	0	14	90	40	0.00	SSE	3.3	3.1	14.9	20.8	
WED	29	10.4	63.0	72.0	53 A	0	7	97	26	0.00	- SVV	1.2	3.0	20.1	30.5	
THU	31	77.9	55.4	66.6	51.2	0	2	97	33	0.00	F	1.6	3.9	15.7	27 4	
Mo	nthly	11.5	00.4	00.0	01.2		<u> </u>	31	33	0.71	L	1.0	3.5	10.1	21.4	
Ave	rage	78.0	58.8	68.4	56.1			91	43		SE	0.6	3.7	16.1		
Mor	nthly					38	142			5.10					740 7	
То	otal					30	143			0.10					740.7	





Kentucky Mesonet, Hopkins County, June 24, 2013

➤ 5.92 inches of rain in less than four hours



Estimated as a 500-year event based on NOAA NWS Atlas 14

*In a changing climate, extreme precipitation events are expected to become more frequent.* 

Atmospheric Modeling and Forecasting



## Weather Forecast Model Run

#### Experimental Product from the Kentucky Climate Center



Model initialized with observations from the Kentucky Mesonet.



Atmospheric Modeling and Forecasting



## Sample Point Forecast

#### **Experimental Product from the Kentucky Climate Center**

- **Custom point forecasts** with 36-hour lead time
- Model runs on WKU's • **High-performance Computing Cluster**





36 42 48

Time (hours)

54 60 66 72

18 24 30

# **Questions and Discussion**