



The Co-Op Contributor

Serving the Co-Op Observer Network of the National Weather Service – Fort Worth Office

Spring 2009

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Co-Op Contributor

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From The Program Manager

New changes have taken place within WxCoder as we continue to progress towards paperless observation reporting. Most notable is an easier process to make corrections to observations and the “End of Month” close out of the data form. Corrections are now made simply by opening the Monthly Form and making entries as necessary. The “End of Month” close out is the new process by which the observer closes out the data form for the month. Closing out the data is the observer’s seal of approval that the record is complete and correct, and this signifies that the data is ready for transmission to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). The Administrator gives a last minute check for completeness and then prepares the data for transmission.

Quality Control

The drive to ensure good quality in the reporting process is now paramount in the program. It calls for both parties, Observer and Administrator, to take a more active part in ensuring that the data submitted to NCDC is accurate and timely. Every observer is tasked with periodically checking their on-line data to ensure completeness. If at any time a question should arise then please contact me as soon as possible. It is imperative that you be aware of all the ins and outs associated with the WxCoder program. I encourage everyone to feel free to explore all the various help screens and tabs to better understand what is available within WxCoder. We also hope to soon have a pictorial training presentation for WxCoder on our website at: www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/coopcorner.htm. My contact information may be found in this newsletter as well as in WxCoder (Contact NWS).

Spring Comes Early to North Texas

This past winter was above normal for temperatures, but the weather in February reminded us more of spring than the last days of winter. During the late afternoon hours on February 10th, scattered severe thunderstorms developed along a dryline over central portions of

Oklahoma and Texas. These storms eventually moved into the northwestern portions of north Texas where they merged into a severe squall line. This squall line extended as far south as the Texas Hill Country and marched across all of north Texas during the evening hours. Reports of damaging thunderstorm winds ranging from 60-80 mph were numerous, and some of the storms produced large hail up to baseball size. The highest measured wind gust was 88 mph in Hillsboro. Three tornadoes occurred during this severe weather event; an EF-0 and EF-1 were confirmed in Montague County and an EF-1 was confirmed in Tarrant County. In the past 5 years, only two significant severe weather events have occurred this early in the year and both were in February 2008. Both of the events in February 2008 were mainly hail producers.

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Spring Comes Early to North Texas - Continued

On February 24th, a dryline pushed into the western portions of north Texas causing temperatures in several locations to soar into the mid to upper 80s and a few locations to pass the 90 degree mark! Our observer in Breckenridge recorded a high temperature of 94 degrees on February 24th, and our observer in Graham reported 92 degrees. But the hot weather didn't end there as another dryline on the 26th pushed temperatures back into the 90s. The automated weather station at Comanche recorded a high of 97 degrees on the 26th and most sites as far east as Granbury reported highs in the 90s!

Co-Op Observer Temperatures from February 26

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Gordon 1SW | 95 |
| Bridgeport | 93 |
| Breckenridge | 92 |
| Alvord 3N | 92 |
| Stephenville 1N | 92 |
| Dublin | 92 |
| Granbury 5NW | 92 |



| | |
|------------|----|
| Olney | 91 |
| Evant 1SSW | 90 |
| Bonita 4NW | 90 |
| Bowie | 90 |
| Hico | 90 |
| Rainbow | 90 |

The month of March (transitioning into the official Spring season) was fairly normal with pleasant temperatures only a few degrees above normal. A few more bouts of severe weather occurred which is normal for the month of March. However, Mother Nature pulled another surprise on north Texas with a dusting of snow across the northern counties on the morning of March 28th. While snow events this late in the year are slightly rare, the latest snow event ever recorded at DFW Airport and Waco was on April 14th, 1928.

Headed Into Spring

The 2008-2009 Winter months (Dec/Jan/Feb) were warmer than average. DFW Airport during these three months was 4.23 degrees above normal and Waco was 3.13 degrees above normal. On page 3 is a chart of select COOP observing sites with their monthly averages and departure from normal for the Dec/Jan/Feb months. The average departure from normal for all sites was 2.00 degrees above normal.





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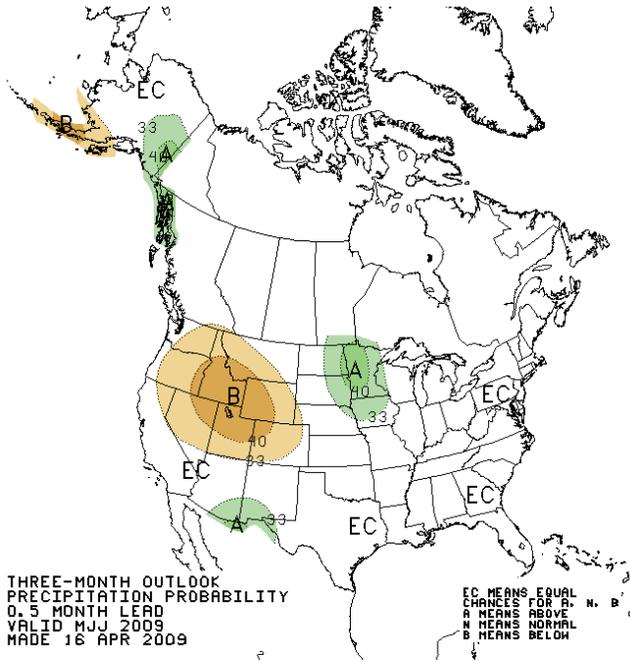
| Location | DEC | JAN | FEB | AVG | Normal | Departure |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|--------|-----------|
| Athens | 47.2 | 45.8 | 54.2 | 49.1 | 48.2 | +0.90 |
| Benbrook Dam | 48.0 | 47.0 | 57.0 | 50.7 | 45.9 | +4.75 |
| Bowie | 42.5 | 40.8 | 51.9 | 45.1 | 42.8 | +2.23 |
| Breckenridge | 46.6 | 44.8 | 54.4 | 48.6 | 45.5 | +3.08 |
| Bridgeport | 44.0 | 43.2 | 52.7 | 46.6 | 45.7 | +0.92 |
| Burleson | 46.9 | 45.8 | 55.6 | 49.4 | 46.4 | +3.07 |
| Cameron | 46.5 | 46.9 | 54.0 | 49.1 | 52.6 | -3.52 |
| Centerville | 48.0 | 46.9 | 55.3 | 50.1 | 48.5 | +1.52 |
| Cleburne | 46.4 | 45.9 | 54.8 | 49.0 | 48.2 | +0.78 |
| Corsicana | 47.8 | 47.1 | 55.9 | 50.3 | 46.9 | +3.38 |
| Denton 2SE | 43.5 | 44.5 | 53.6 | 47.2 | 45.4 | +1.80 |
| Emory | 45.1 | 43.6 | 53.4 | 47.3 | 44.7 | +2.62 |
| Ferris | 46.8 | 44.7 | 53.7 | 48.4 | 46.9 | +1.50 |
| Gainesville 5ENE | 43.3 | 41.8 | 51.5 | 45.5 | 43.5 | +1.98 |
| Hico | 44.6 | 44.1 | 53.5 | 47.4 | 45.6 | +1.80 |
| Hillsboro | 47.6 | 46.3 | 55.2 | 49.7 | 48.8 | +0.95 |
| Lake Lavon | 46.0 | 46.5 | 55.0 | 49.2 | 44.8 | +4.35 |
| Lampasas | 47.0 | 48.1 | 55.6 | 50.2 | 46.2 | +4.00 |
| Marlin 3NE | 48.0 | 46.9 | 55.6 | 50.2 | 51.0 | -0.80 |
| McGregor | 46.6 | 46.5 | 55.7 | 49.6 | 48.1 | +1.48 |
| Navarro Mills | 47.0 | 45.5 | 55.0 | 49.2 | 46.7 | +2.50 |
| Olney | 44.2 | 42.7 | 50.8 | 45.9 | 45.6 | +0.30 |
| Sherman | 42.7 | 43.1 | 51.0 | 45.6 | 44.1 | +1.52 |
| Sulphur Springs | 44.9 | 42.8 | 52.5 | 46.7 | 45.1 | +1.60 |
| Waxahachie | 47.6 | 45.4 | 53.8 | 48.9 | 48.4 | +0.53 |
| Weatherford | 44.4 | 43.7 | 52.6 | 46.9 | 44.2 | +2.68 |
| Whitney Dam | 48.0 | 46.0 | 56.0 | 50.0 | 47.0 | +3.05 |
| Wills Point | 46.3 | 44.4 | 53.8 | 48.1 | 44.4 | +3.75 |

Thank you for all of the cooperative observer reports through the winter months!

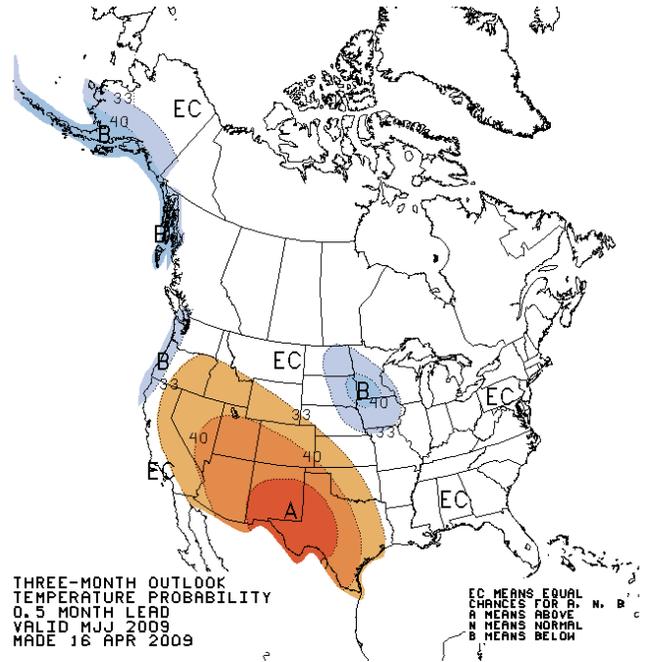


Climate Outlooks - May/June/July

Precipitation



Temperature



Co-Op Corner Recipe

Courtesy of Greg Waller from the WGRFC

Ingredients

4 Chicken breasts - bone in

1/4 Cup of olive oil plus 1 TBL

1/4 Cup of white wine

1/4 Cup of lemon juice

3 TBL of finely chopped onions

1 garlic clove finely chopped. Maybe more if you like garlic.

1 TSP finely ground thyme

1 TSP salt

1 TSP pepper

Flour

Tabasco sauce to taste

Directions

Preheat oven to 400°.

Use 1 TBL of olive oil to cover bottom of medium baking dish.

Salt, pepper, and lightly flour chicken breasts.

Put breasts in oven for 30 minutes. Combine rest of the ingredients.

Remove chicken breasts from the oven. Flip breasts and cover with the remainder of the ingredients.

Bake for another 30 minutes.

Serve alone or with rice.