Weather data in your backyard

Kansas Mesonet adds a real-time weather monitoring station in Clark County

MANHATTAN, Kansas - Weather data is sparse in much of southwest Kansas. Very few weather stations exist and most have little availability to the public. Kansas Mesonet, a network of 60 agriculture based weather stations located throughout Kansas, aims to change that.

The Mesonet added a new weather station this summer named Ashland 8S (eight miles to the south of the city of Ashland). This station provides real-time weather data available on the Kansas Mesonet website: mesonet.ksu.edu. This data includes current temperature, humidity, wind speed/direction, evapotranspiration and precipitation data. Through the webpage’s menu in the top left of the site, users can find a variety of products including a High/Low and Wind Gust page, a growing degree calculator, and even an inversion monitor. Soil temperature, soil moisture, and solar radiation data are also available from Ashland 8S and can be found on the web page.

Although data only goes back to August 2018, the time of the installation, users can compare to regional climatic datasets on the website. Historical data can also be downloaded in either hourly or daily increments through the webpage as well (accessed via Menu -> Weather -> Historical Weather).

Kansas Mesonet stations must meet specific siting criteria specified by the World Meteorological Organization. This includes grass cover, lack of nearby obstructions, and avoid small scale influences such as lakes/buildings/etc. Therefore, this station is representative of a larger area than just the local of which it resides. This allows data to be applicable to numerous industries, remain usable to a large audience, and be comparable to other surrounding stations.

If there is desire to organize an informational session about the Mesonet and the products it offers, please contact Brice Gibson, Ag and Natural Resources Agent, K-State Research and Extension - Clark County. Please call the office at 620-635-2811 or email Brice at begibson@ksu.edu. For further information on the Mesonet you can email Chip Redmond at christopherredmond@k-state.edu.

The next time you want to know the temperature or how much it rained last night - go to mesonet.ksu.edu and you can see that data from your very own backyard!

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Relevant links:
mesonet.ksu.edu
Photo of Ashland 8S looking north on September 13, 2018 during routine maintenance.