

**Memorandum:
Supporting and Sustaining the Oklahoma Mesonet**

To: Non-Oklahoma Researchers Using Oklahoma Mesonet Data

From: Oklahoma Mesonet Steering Committee

Date: August 17, 2011

The Oklahoma Mesonet is a jointly owned environmental monitoring network of the University of Oklahoma (OU) and Oklahoma State University (OSU), operated from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey. [Mesonet](#) measures weather and soil conditions at 120 surface stations across Oklahoma. This world-class network has operated since 1994 and now has archived over 4 billion quality-assured observations.

There are substantial costs associated with our commitment to high quality and service. We must cover expenses associated with sensor calibration and maintenance, data quality assurance, data management and archiving, etc. However, since fiscal year 2003, State funding for the Mesonet has decreased by almost 15% while demand for our data, products, and services has more than quadrupled. Because of increased demands and decreased funding, we now are permanently removing some of our auxiliary sensors (e.g., net radiation, skin temperature, soil moisture at 75 cm), as well as considering dozens of other cost-saving measures.

Because the Mesonet is not a federally-funded facility, the Mesonet Steering Committee's policy is that standard fees for data and data services apply for grants awarded to non-Oklahoma scientists (see attached official rates approved by the Mesonet Steering Committee). Data fees may be waived for exploratory, non-funded research so long as the user signs an agreement indicating that Mesonet data services/fees will be included in any future proposals or contracts utilizing Mesonet data. Please contact our office via the [data request email](#) or 405-325-2541 to discuss an appropriate amount for data costs based on the type and amount of data that you require.

It is our preference to freely share our data with the research community, but even with judicious use of our resources, we must rely on data fees to help us balance the budget. We trust that you recognize the high value of Mesonet data and will agree to include our relatively inexpensive fees for Oklahoma Mesonet data in your research projects.

Thank you, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.