Weather Time Line: Oklahoma 1900-2000

1900 September 9-10: Floods in eastern Indian Territory from heavy rains associated with remnants of the Galveston Hurricane.
1905 February 13 cold snap: Vinita —27 degrees, all-time state record lowest temperature. White Eagle reported minimum of —25.
1905 May 10: Tornado in Snyder kills 97.
1906 Coolest July of century: statewide-averaged temperature is 76.4 degrees .
1906 Wettest August of century: statewide-averaged precipitation of 6.54 inches.
1906 September 16: Sudden flooding along the Cimarron River south of Dover washes out the railroad bridge, causing a spectacular train wreck.
1907 Warmest March of century: statewide —averaged temperature of 59.6 degrees.
1907 Coolest May of century: statewide-averaged temperature of 62.3 degrees.
1908 Wettest June of century: statewide-averaged precipitation of 8.73 inches. Widespread flooding reported.
1908 Driest December of century: 0.07 inches, averaged statewide.
1909 Wettest November of century: 5.72 inches, averaged statewide.
Despite the wet November, 1909 represents the onset of 1909-1918 drought, the driest 10-year period (statewide precipitation 29.34 inches per year).
1910 Driest October of century: statewide-averaged precipitation of 0.14 inch, since tied.
1910 Driest year of century: statewide-averaged precipitation of 18.95 inches.
1910 Ending of the driest consecutive years of century (1909-1910): 23.02 inches/year.
1911 November 11-12: Blue Norther lowers temperatures as much as 69 degrees in 18 hours (50 to 65 degrees in 2 to 3 hours. Oklahoma City record temperatures on November 11(max=83, min=17) both are from 1911, as is the record low for November 12 (14 degrees).
1911-1912 Heavy snow in December, January, and March give Beaver a state record for seasonal snowfall: 87.3 inches.
1912 Ending of driest 4 consecutive years of century (1909-1912): statewide-averaged precipitation of 25.89 inches per year.
1914 March 18 and 24: Violent sandstorms in western Oklahoma.
1914 May 1-5: Floods on Canadian River from rains in New Mexico — flow along the entire Oklahoma length went from nil to overflow overnight. Flooding was also reported along the North Canadian and the Cimarron.
1914 December 24,25: Severe snowstorm across central and southern Oklahoma.
1914 Ending of driest 6 consecutive years of century (1909-1914): statewide-averaged precipitation of 27.12 inches.
1915 Coldest March of century: statewide-averaged temperature of 39.2 degrees.
1915 June 3-18: Flood on North Canadian inundated low-lying districts of southern and eastern Oklahoma City.

1915 September 14,15 9.55 inches of rain in central Osage County, significant flooding in Pawhuska.
1915 Coolest August of century: statewide-averaged temperature of 73.9 degrees.
1916 January: Fort Gibson records 13.08 inches of precipitation. Neosho, Verdigris, and Arkansas rivers all flood. Widespread sleet and snow occurred late in the month.
1916 June: Heavy rains in northwestern Oklahoma on the 4 th and 5 th lead to extensive flooding on the North Canadian, especially, beginning on the 13 th , in Oklahoma City where 6 to 10 feet of water cover Wheeler Park (behind the levee).
1917 January 4: F3 Vireton tornado (13 NE of McAlester) kills 16 students in the Choctaw Boarding School.
1917 June 1: F4 Coalgate tornado kills 14.
1917 End of driest 8 consecutive years of century (1910-1917): statewide-averaged precipitation of 29.09 inches per year.
1918 September: End of nearly continuous 10-year drought that began in 1909.
1918 December: 30 inches of snow at Hurley (near Boise City). A severe snow and sleet storm swept the state late in the month.
1918 End of driest 10 consecutive years of century (1909-1918): statewide-averaged precipitation of 29.34 inches per year.
1919 November 27-29: Sleet/freezing rain across state with ice accumulations greater than 1 inch in many localities.
1920 May 2: F4 Peggs tornado destroys town, killing 71.
1920 May 17: 10 inch rain at Hugo in 12 hours.
1920 October 21-30: Extensive flooding along North Canadian River — levees breached in Oklahoma City, flooding low-lying industrial and residential sections.
1921 February 18,19: 8 to 18 inches of snow over most of the state.
1921 April 4,5: Heavy rain, flash flooding near Clinton — several hundred cattle drowned.
1922 March 13: F2 tornado at Gowan (Latimer County) kills 10.
1922 November 4: F4 tornado near Shamrock and Drumright kills 11.
1923 Warmest January of century: statewide-averaged temperature of 47.5 degrees.
1923 June 11-13: Severe flooding along Arkansas and Chikaskia rivers, especially in Ponca City, Blackwell, and Tulsa.
1923 October 13-16: Severe flooding along North Canadian. Breach of Lake Overholser Dam forces the evacuation of 15,000 residents in Oklahoma City. This flood led to a radical redistribution of housing patterns in the city as higher income families moved northward, away from the river.
1924 March: Heavy snow over most of the state, most of the month. Alva recorded 37 inches, Beaver 33 inches, Woodward 28.5 inches, Geary 25 inches, Mutual 24.2 inches, Norman 24 inches, Hooker 22 inches, Weatherford 21.5 inches, Eufaula, Hammon, and Waukomis 21 inches each, Oklahoma City 20.3 inches.

1925 Coolest October of century: statewide-averaged temperature of 55.3 degrees.
1927 April 18: F4 tornado in rural Choctaw County near Fort Towson kills 10.
1925 July: Corn crop fails in summer drought.
1926 March 30: 16 snow at Boise City.
1927 April 6,7:Heavy rains added to already high stream flow produce greatest flooding along the Arkansas River (below the mouth of the Neosho River) since 1833.The flood extended through the 19 th inundating 165,000 acres with losses totaling $4M (in 1927 dollars).
1929 Coolest November of century: statewide-averaged temperature of 42.6 degrees.
1930 January 18: Watts reports overnight low temperature of -27 degrees, to tie the all-time lowest temperature in Oklahoma.
1930 November 19: F4 tornado at Bethany, kills 23.
1931 Warmest September of century with a statewide averaged temperature of 80.6 degrees.
1932 June 3: Flood on the North Canadian, severe in Oklahoma City. 5 dead, 3200 homeless.
1932-1938: General droughty conditions combine with inappropriate farming practices and a depressed economy to create the Dust Bowl throughout the High Plains including northwestern Oklahoma.
1933: Driest June, statewide-averaged precipitation of 0.46 inch.
1933 Tie for warmest December, statewide-averaged temperature of 46.5 degrees.
1934 April 3-4: Hammon flood in eastern Roger Mills County. 14 inches of rain in 6 hours near Cheyenne. 1935 Coldest February of century, statewide-averaged temperature of 44.9 degrees.
1935 February, March, and April: Unusually severe dust storms. The most general one on April 10-11,covered almost the entire state and was the heaviest known in central and eastern portions, reducing visibility to 11/2 blocks as far east as Cleveland (Pawnee County). The Black Sunday dust storm that struck in northwestern Oklahoma on the 14 th was the worst ever seen in that region. Visibility was reduced to zero from Kenton to Arnett, beginning shortly after 4 PM. According to the observer at Kenton, the storm struck at 4:20 PM turning afternoon brightness immediately into midnight darkness, and absolute zero visibility. It was totally dark and impossible to see without searchlight for at least 15 minutes. In the course of one hour, faint visibility was returning just enough to get around in the open. The storm came from the north and northeast and traveled at a very great speed. (Quote from Climatological Data, April 1935 which cited Mr. Ralph H. Guy.) Panhandle stations reported moderate to heavy dust 20 days during the month (April) and light dust on other days. Oklahoma City noted dust on 18 days. Only the 3 rd , 19 th , and 29 th (April) were without dust.
1936 Alva (July 18), Altus (July 19 and August 12), and Poteau (August 12) each report daily maximum temperatures of 120 degrees, the highest ever recorded in Oklahoma.

1936: Warmest (87.9 degrees) and driest (0.22 inches of precipitation) August of century.
1938: Wettest February of century, statewide-averaged precipitation of 4.66 inches.
1941: Wettest month of century, October statewide-averaged precipitation of 11.32 inches.
1942 April 27: F4 tornado strikes Pryor, killing 52.
1942 Wettest April of century, statewide-averaged precipitation of 8.50 inches.
1942 June 12: F4 tornado in Oklahoma City kills 35.
1942 December 12: State-record 24 hour snowfall 30.3 inches at Ardmore.
1943 May 18-22: Record flood on the Arkansas near Muskogee.
1943 July 26: Tishomingo ties state temperature record with daily maximum of 120 degrees.
1945: April 12: F5 tornado kills 69 in Antlers, F4 tornado kills 13 in Muskogee.
1945 April 13-14: 14.6 inches of rain at Seminole. Wewoka Dam fails.
1945 Wettest September of century, statewide-averaged precipitation of 7.86 inches.
1947 Statewide-averaged precipitation of 0.20 inches ties for driest February of century.
1947 April 9: F5 Tornado kills 116 in Woodward.
1947-1963: University of Oklahoma football fans enjoy Bud Wilkinson weather as there is no rain in Norman on a home football Saturday during the entire period. Oklahoma State University fans consider this to be a product of the long-term drought that plagued agriculture throughout the period.
1948 March 20, March 25: Tornadoes strike Tinker Air Force Base 5 days apart. $10 million damage from the first, but successful forecast of second by Air Force meteorologists Fawbush and Miller prevents significant damage to aircraft. This is the first successful scientific forecast of a tornado.
1948 March 25: F4 tornado strikes Lenna, killing 10.
1948 June 23-24: As much as 20 inches of rain in west central Oklahoma leads to major flash flooding near Hydro and in Kingfisher. Flood on Route 66 near Hydro kills 11.
1949: Wettest January of century, state-averaged precipitation of 5.23 inches.
1950 May 11-12: Flood of record on Illinois River near Tahlequah. The new Fort Gibson reservoir filled one year ahead of predictions.
1950-1956 Driest 7-year period of century with an average annual statewide precipitation of 28.51 inches
1950: Wettest July of century, statewide-averaged precipitation of 9.26 inches.
1952-1956: Driest 5-year period of century with an annual average statewide precipitation of 25.81 inches.
1952: Tied for driest October of century, statewide-averaged precipitation of 0.14 inch.
1953: Warmest June of century, statewide averaged temperature of 85.1 degrees.
1954-1956: Driest 3-year period of century with an annual average statewide precipitation of 24.50 inches.

1954: Warmest February of century, statewide-averaged temperature of 51.8 degrees.
1954: Hottest July of century with a statewide-averaged temperature of 88.6 degrees.
1954: Warmest year of century, statewide-averaged annual temperature of 63.7 degrees.
1955 May 12: F5 tornado hits Blackwell, killing 20.
1956 July: 7 tornadoes, record for month.
1956 September: Driest September of century, statewide-averaged precipitation of 0.27 inch.
1956 Regnier annual precipitation of 6.53 inches is least ever for any station in state.
1957 April: 40 tornadoes, record for month.
1957 May 16-21: Heavy rains throughout. Major flooding on Cimarron, Arkansas, Canadian. $20M losses to agriculture alone. Lake Texoma emergency spillway opened for first time. Floods marked the end of persistent drought that began in 1952.
1957: Wettest May of century, statewide-averaged precipitation of 10.68 inches
1957: Annual precipitation at Kiamichi Tower, 84.47 inches, greatest of century at any reporting station.
1957: Wettest year of Century with a statewide-averaged precipitation of 48.21 inches.
1957 107 tornadoes, second greatest number in any year, 1950-1999.
1958 November: 12 tornadoes record for month.
1959 October 2-5: Severe flooding on Cimarron and Arkansas.
1960 May 5: F4 tornado kills 16 at Wilburton and Keota.
1961 May 5: F4 tornado kills 16 at Howe and Reichert.
1960-61: Second most tornadoes in consecutive years, 179.
1962: Warmest May of century, statewide-averaged temperature of 74.5 degrees.
1963: Warmest October of century, statewide-averaged temperature of 70.7 degrees.
1965: Tied for warmest December of century, statewide-averaged temperature of 46.5 degrees.
1971 February 21-22: Blizzard in northwest Oklahoma. Buffalo receives 36 inches of snow, state record for storm-total snowfall.
1971 Driest March of century, statewide-averaged precipitation of 0.38 inch.
1973 Wettest March of century, statewide-averaged precipitation of 7.46 inches.
1973 May 24: Tornado at Union City is the first intercepted and photographed by chase team deployed for that purpose.
1973 October 11: 15.68 inches of rain at Enid, state record daily and 24 hour rainfall (fell in 13 hours). 12 inches fell in 3hours. Flash-flooding killed 9.
1974 Coolest September of century, statewide-averaged temperature of 65.4 degrees.
1974 June 8: F4 tornado kills 14 in Drumright.
1975 February: 6 tornadoes, record for month.

1977 August 27-28: 12 inches of rain fell near Cache, 7.7 inches in 6 hours.
1978: Dr. Amos Eddy designated Oklahoma State Climatologist, the first non-federal employee to hold that position.
1980: Oklahoma Climatological Survey established at the University of Oklahoma.
1980 Summer heat wave: daily maximum temperature at Oklahoma City exceeded 100 degrees 50 times during the season.
1980 Driest July of century with a statewide-averaged precipitation of 0.41 inch.
1981 October 10-17: Remnants of Hurricane Norma produce as much as 18 inches of rain in 36 hours in south central Oklahoma (Kingston-Madill Tishomingo).
1982: 101 tornadoes, 3 rd most in one year since 1950.
1983 October 17-23: Remnants of Hurricane Tico produce up to 10-15 inches of rain, extensive flooding, from Rush Springs to Shawnee. Damages estimated at $84M, including $77M to agriculture.
1983: 92 tornadoes, 5 th most in one year since 1950.
1982-1983: 193 tornadoes, 2 nd greatest number of tornadoes in consecutive years.
1983 Coldest April of century with a statewide-averaged temperature of 54.0 degrees.
1983 Coldest December of century with a statewide averaged temperature of 26.5 degrees. Oklahoma City temperature did not exceed freezing from 17 th through the 31 st .
1984 May 26-27: Tulsa Memorial Day flood — more than 12 inches of rain overnight, subsequent flooding left 14 dead, destroyed or damaged 5,500 homes and over 7,000 vehicles. In reaction to this disaster, Tulsa launched a massive flood prevention and warning system that remains among the most effective public safety programs in the nation.
1984 Wettest December of century with a statewide-averaged precipitation of 4.98 inches.
1986 Driest January of century with a statewide averaged precipitation of 0.04 inches.
1986 September 30-October 4: Remnants of Hurricane Paine produce rains of around 10 inches in western and central Oklahoma and as much as 20 inches in north central Oklahoma. Major flooding on Arkansas River and its tributaries. Flooding was reported in 52 counties, damages estimated at $350M, half of that to agriculture.
1987 May 29-30: Intense thunderstorm producing 5 to 11 inches of rain produced flash flooding in Chickasha, Lindsey, and Pauls Valley.
1987 mid-December through early January 1988: Series of winter storms. December 13-15: 8 to 14 inches of snow over northwest half of state, drifting up to 4 feet. December 25-27: Intense ice storm along 40-mile-wide stretch from Duncan to Norman to Tulsa and on to Miami left 75,000 homes without power, one-third of those for as long as a week. Ice accumulations of one to two inches on power lines and trees led to $10M in damages. Flooding occurred on rivers just southeast of the ice storm. January 5-7, 1988: Heavy snow — 10 inches over

much of the state with some areas receiving 16 to 18 inches. Rooftop drifts of two to three feet caused extensive damage.
1988: 17 tornadoes, fewest in one year during 1950-1999 period.
1988: Driest May of century with a statewide-averaged precipitation of 1.30 inches.
1989: Driest April of century with a statewide-averaged precipitation of 0.58 inch.
1988-89: 37 tornadoes, fewest in consecutive years since 1950.
1989: Cold outbreak March 3, temperatures fall over 50 degrees in a few hours, severe thunderstorms form over the cold air.
1990 May 1-4: Major flooding on Red, Canadian, and Arkansas.
1991 March: 17 tornadoes, most March tornadoes, 1950-1999.
1991 April 26: Severe thunderstorm outbreak, the first during which the National Weather Service made operational use of the WSR-88D (Doppler) radar, commonly known as NEXRAD.
1992 September: 16 tornadoes, most September tornadoes, 1950-1999
1994 March 1: Oklahoma Mesonet commissioned — first statewide network of its kind.
1994 June 27: Tipton Mesonet site records 120 degree temperature, tieing the all-time state record.
1994 Aug 17: Severe thunderstorm produces large hail over a north/south path extending from Manchester, near the Kansas border, to Minco in central Oklahoma. Mesonet site at Lahoma recorded a peak wind of 113 miles per hour before anemometer was broken.
1995 June: 28 tornadoes, most June tornadoes, 1950-1999.
1995-1996 August-May: Extreme drought disastrous fire season, very small wheat harvest.
1996: Driest February of century with a statewide-averaged precipitation of 0.20 inches (tied).
1998: Severe summer drought began at the end of a perfect wheat growing season.
1998 October 4: 27 tornadoes, national record for tornadoes in any state on a single day in October.
1998 October: 27 tornadoes, national record for tornadoes in any state during October.
1999 May 3: Tornado outbreak in central Oklahoma — 75 tornadoes in 21 hours. F5 damage in Moore, Midwest City, Del City, south Oklahoma City. Toll: 40 dead, over 700injures, $1B damages.
1999 May: 91 tornadoes, most in one month, 1950-1999.
1999: Warmest November of century with a statewide-averaged temperature of 56.2degrees.
1999: Most tornadoes in a single year, 137 tornadoes.
1998-1999: Most tornadoes in consecutive years, 220.
2000 August-September: mini-drought, 1.16 inches of precipitation, statewide, over the two months, was 5.5 inches less than normal. August s statewide-averaged precipitation(0.16 inch) broke the 1936 record for that month.
2000 November-December was the coldest such period on record for the state

with a statewide-averaged temperature of 37.0 degrees.
2000 December 11-13 and 25-27: Major snow and ice storms struck statewide, especially powerful in southeast quarter. Power was lost to at least 120,000 homes and businesses, including 90% of the residents of McIntosh, Latimer, and Pittsburg counties. Extended power outages also led to disruptions of local water supplies in several areas. At least 27 fatalities were attributable to the extreme weather conditions, which extended well into January 2001. Total property damage in the state was approximately $170 million.
2001 May 27: Parts of central Oklahoma experienced severe winds in excess of 70 and 80 mph as powerful thunderstorms pushed through the state on Sunday, May 27. Approximately 160,000 residents lost electrical service for as much as a week. Damage estimates reached at least $500,000 for Oklahoma City, with many public buildings and homes damaged or destroyed. Damage estimates statewide were in the tens of millions of dollars.