

June 1, 2005

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***New Mesonet Station
To Assist Arbuckle Study***

Oklahoma City—The Oklahoma Climatological Survey (OCS) and Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) have partnered to establish a Mesonet weather monitoring station in Pontotoc County.

The new site, 6.3 miles southwest of Fittstown, houses the 117th Oklahoma Mesonet station in the program's world-class environmental monitoring network, which includes at least one automated station in every county in the state. The Water Board's involvement came about due to the agency's need for data related to the ongoing Arbuckle-Simpson Hydrology Study, currently in its second year.

Fittstown is the first Mesonet station located over the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer and in the watershed of the Blue River. Real-time climate data transmitted by the station, which was activated May 24, will also provide researchers with information essential to understanding the aquifer and how it responds to variations in precipitation and other factors. An observation well may also be drilled at the site to provide local groundwater level data.

At each Mesonet site, the environment is measured by a set of instruments located on or near a 10-meter-tall tower. Measurements of precipitation, temperature, soil moisture, and other climatic variables are packaged into periodic observations, which are transmitted to a central facility and over the Internet every 15 minutes, 24 hours per day year-round. The Fittstown location satisfies OCS Mesonet siting requirements related to accessibility, geography, and vegetation. In addition, the area contains few obstructions and the site maintains consistency with spatial distribution of other Mesonet stations.

For information on the Fittstown Mesonet station or the Water Board's Arbuckle-Simpson Hydrology Study, contact Noel Osborn or Bob Fabian, of the OWRB's Planning and Management Division, at 405-530-8800.

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