



# COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS PROGRAM



Oshkosh 10 NE

The NWS Cooperative Observers Program is truly the nation's weather and climate observing network of the people, by the people, and for the people. Unlike its cousin network of airport observing stations, the 11,700 volunteer Cooperative observers take observations in greatly diverse environmental settings including farms, urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are truly representative of where people live, work, play, commute, and grow their food.

A cooperative station is a site at which observations are taken or other services rendered by volunteers or contractors who are not NWS employees and who are not required to take or pass observation certification examinations.



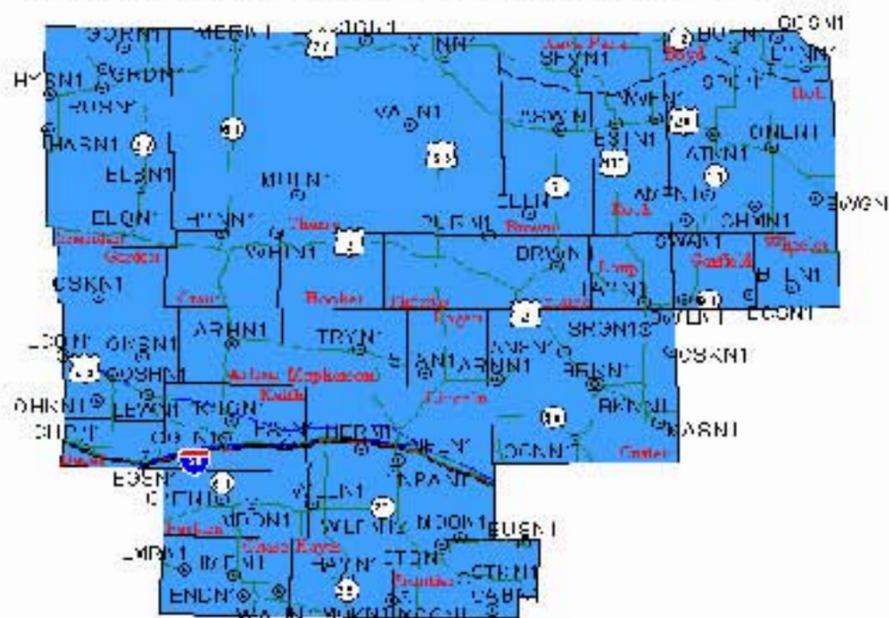
Whitman

The National Weather Service Cooperative Observers Program was formally created in 1890 under the Organic Act. Its mission today is two-fold:

- To provide observational meteorological data (usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperature, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals) required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and,
- To provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning, and other public service programs of the National Weather Service (NWS).

The first extensive network of cooperative stations was set up in the 1890's as a result of an act of congress in 1890 that established the Weather Bureau, but many of its stations began operation long before that time. John Companius Holm's weather records, taken without the benefit of instruments in 1644 and 1645, were the earliest known observations in the United States. Subsequently many persons, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, maintained weather records. Jefferson maintained an almost unbroken record of weather observations between 1776 and 1816 and Washington took his last weather observation just a few days before he died. Two of the most prestigious awards given to Cooperative Weather Observers are named after Holm and Jefferson. Because of it's many decades of relatively stable operation, high station density, and high proportion of rural locations, the Cooperative Network has been recognized as the most definitive source of information on U.S. climate trends for temperature and precipitation. Cooperative Stations form the core of the U.S. Historical Climate Network (HCN) and the U.S. Reference Climate Network.

MAP OF COOP SITES IN NORTH PLATE'S CWA



AWARD PRESENTATIONS



SERVICING INSTRUMENTS

