

Annual Weather Summary 2015
West Central Research and Outreach Center

2015 marks the 130th year of weather records at the West Central Research and Outreach center. Weather data collection started in 1885 and continues today. Some changes have occurred in 2015. George Nelson oversaw the weather records from 1995 to February 2015. Since then Curt Reese has taken over that responsibility. However, many others have been and are involved in the weather records at WROC. Jean Spohr had provided assistance for thirty years, Joel Ekberg for ten years and Roger Gausman for two. The Farm Animal Attendants at WCROC take weekend and holiday readings. They are Ron Erickson, Keith Graff, Becky Hacker, Matt Hilbrands, Wayne Lesmeister and Tim Rach. Without the help of these individuals the weather records could not be done.

The mean annual temperature recorded at WCROC in Morris (Jan-Dec 1886-2014) is 42.1°F. The annual temperature for 2015 was 44.7°F, which is 2.6°F warmer than the long term annual mean. We had 32 days in both January and February with a minimum temperature of 0°F or lower, and 38 days for all of 2015 which compares to 62 for 2014. For the year, 4 months had below average mean temperatures, however, the mean was close to normal. January, September, November and December had notably higher average temperatures. The departure from the mean temperature for these months was respectively 7.0°F, 6.7°F, 7.4°F and 6.6°F. In 2015 we had only 4 days of high temperatures exceeding 90°F. High Temperature for the year was 96°F on June 10th. This temperature breaks the record of 85 °F which occurred in 1995. Low temperature for the year was -18°F which occurred on February 5 and 23. Total precipitation was 27.8 inches which was 3.58 inches above normal. We received 20.65 inches of rain during the growing season of April to August. Average is 15.90 inches. For the winter of 2014-2015, (October – March) we had 32.6 inches of snow, average is 36.4 inches. For the calendar year of 2015 we recorded 33.1 inches of snow. In March we broke the high temperature record on 16th with a temperature of 71°F. Weather permitted early small grain and corn planting in the spring of 2015. Wheat was planted on April 1 and corn was planted on April 15 at WCROC. Planting and crop growth was slowed down

by rain and cold temperatures from April 19th to the 25th where lows reached 21°F on April 23. Frost was noted in the area on May 18th and 19th. In May we recorded 7.76 inches of precipitation. Precipitation recorded during May was the third highest amount for this month going back to 1886. June was dryer than normal but near normal precipitation occurred in July followed by 6.31 inches of precipitation in August. 3.05 inches of precipitation was recorded on August 7 breaking the record for that date. The previous record was 2.11 inches in 1986. Warmer than average temperatures occurred in September and October which allowed crops to dry down and harvest to proceed quickly. We accumulated 2486 Growing Degree Days from May to September for 2015. The growing season ended with the first killing frost which occurred on October 16 with a temperature of 25°F. Heating Degree Day in 2015 totaled 8009. Annual evaporation for May to September was 21.10 inches. Staff at WCROC would like to thank George Nelson for overseeing twenty years of weather records at this site.