



# COOPERATIVE OBSERVER PROGRAM

**T**he NWS Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is the Nation's climate and weather observing network of, by and for the people. More than 7,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data is truly representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP program was created in 1890 under the Organic Act. Its mission is two-fold:

- To provide observational climatological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, needed to define U.S. climate and to help measure long-term climate changes.
- To supply observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS.

**A** cooperative station is a site where observations are taken by volunteers. COOP stations fill in the gaps between other types of observing stations such as airports, mesonets, etc.

**T**he Cooperative Observers are volunteers. Most observers record temperature and precipitation daily and send their reports to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) and their servicing NWS office. Many COOP observers provide additional hydrological or meteorological data, such as evaporation, soil temperature, and river stage. Data is transmitted via telephone, computer or mail. Equipment used at NWS cooperative stations is provided by, and maintained by the NWS, and meets stringent climate standards.

**F**or more information on the Cooperative Observer Program, visit our website at:

<http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm>

**N**OAA and NWS recognize that the government “can’t do it alone” when it comes to building a Weather-Ready Nation—it takes a “whole community” approach and includes volunteers within local communities. To get more information visit the Weather-Ready Nation web site at:

[www.noaa.gov/wrn](http://www.noaa.gov/wrn)

