The Iowa Environmental Mesonet

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Outline:

- Motivations for our Mesonet
- IEM Component Networks
- 'Super-charging' Networks
- Working with the NWS
- Iowa AWOS situation
- IEM Applications
- Having fun with COOP data
- Conclusions / No Questions

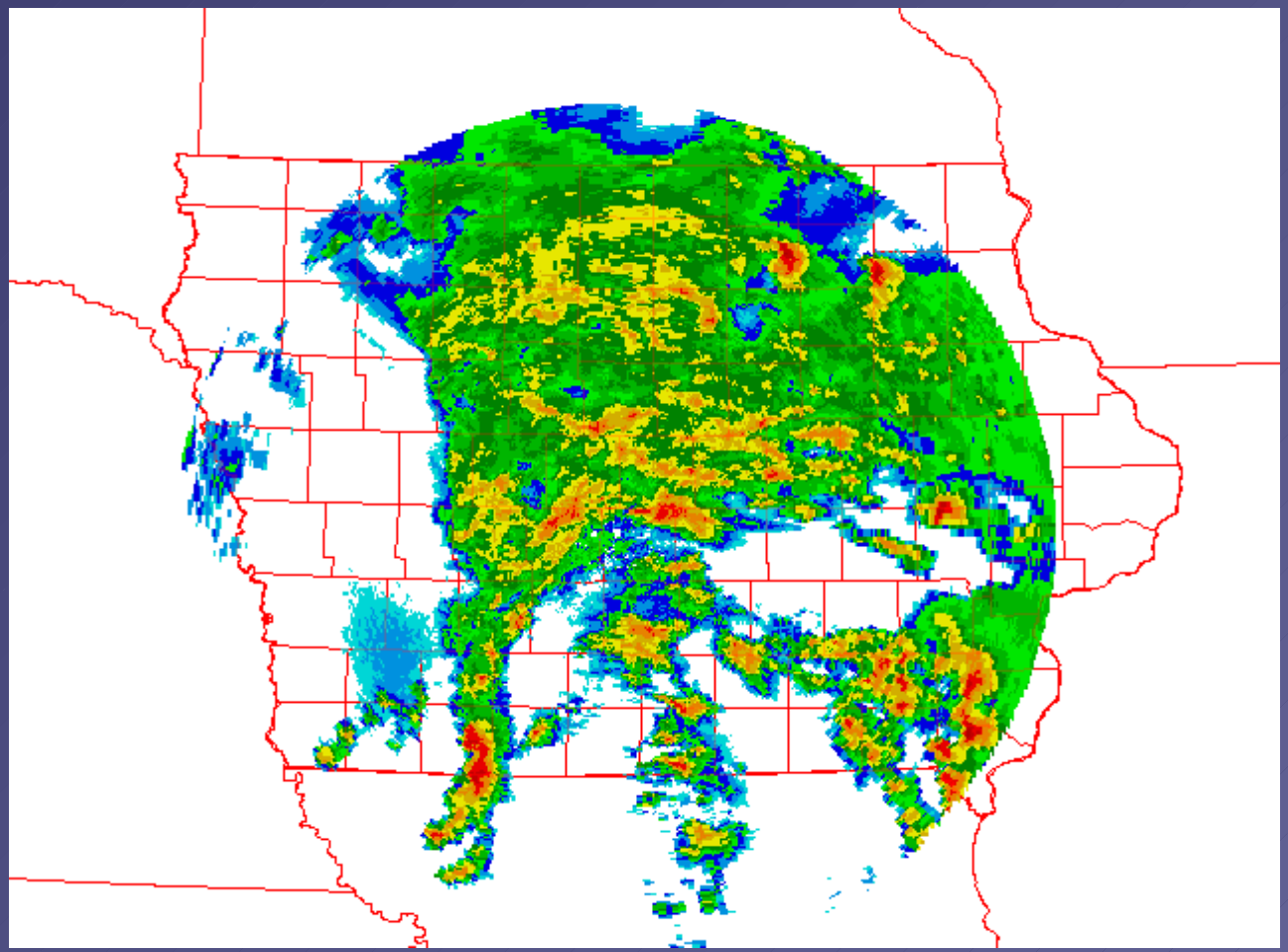
Motivations

- The baseline NWS/FAA ASOS network is not spatially or temporally dense enough to resolve many mesoscale phenomena.
- Building a new observational network is very expensive.
- Building a mesonet of existing networks increases the value, use, and awareness of each member network.

The need for a mesonet

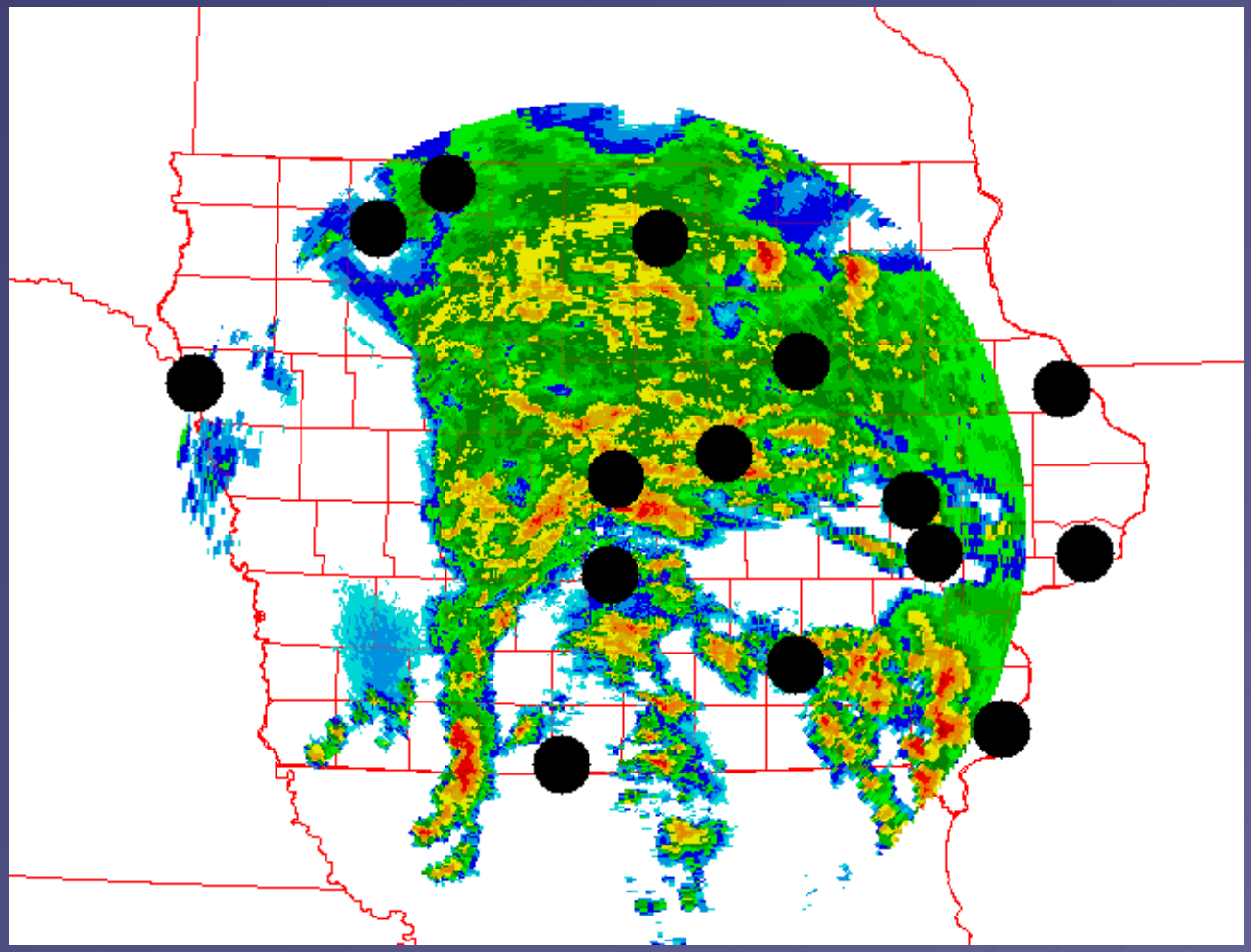
You are a forecaster at the Des Moines WFO. It is 9PM on 8 May 2003. It is dark, so spotters may not be able to help.

What surface observing resources are available to give you situational awareness?



The need for a Mesonet

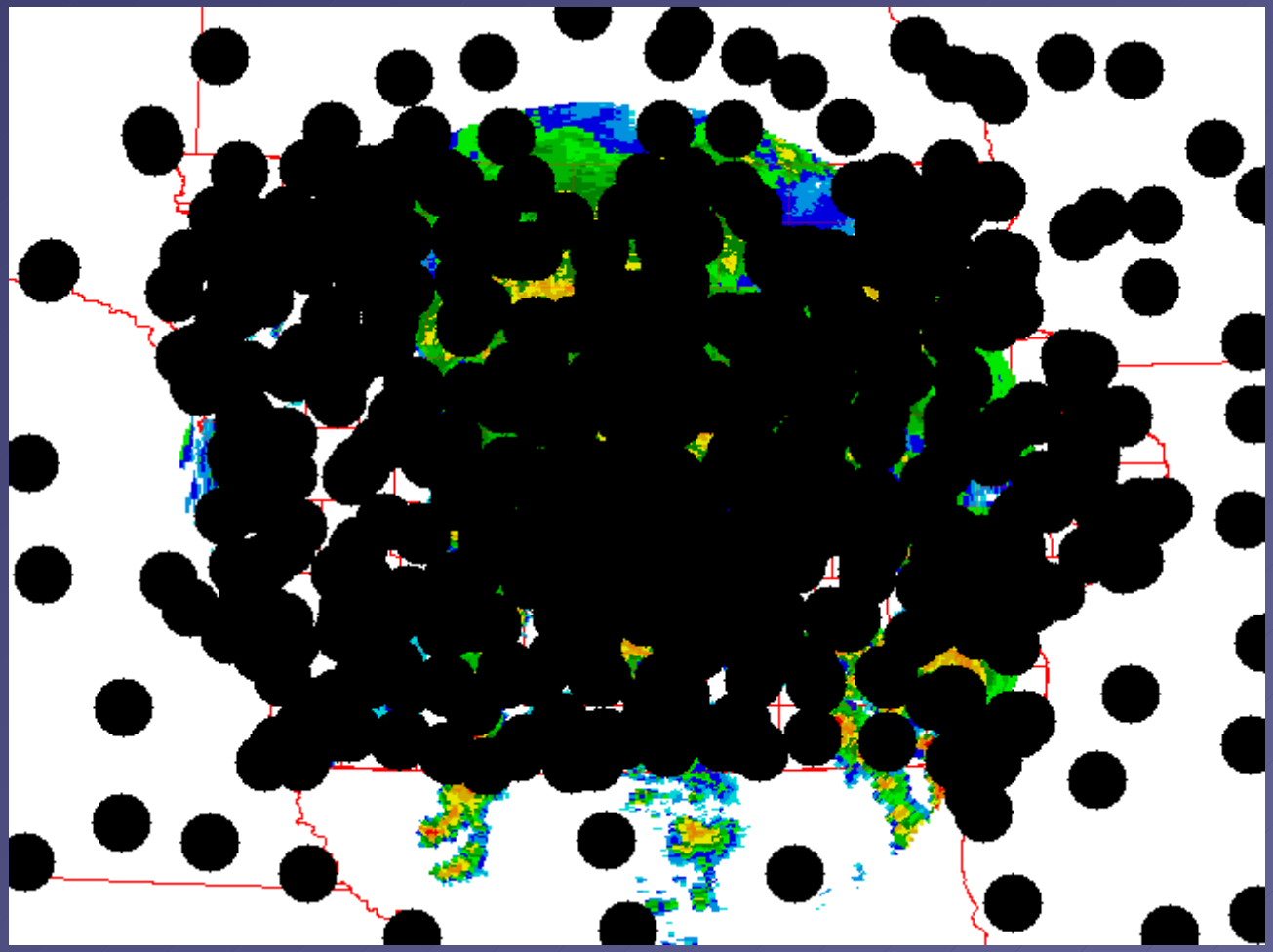
The baseline ASOS network provides you with hourly and some sub-hourly updates. The storm system is moving fast, so issuing timely warnings relies on timely current data.



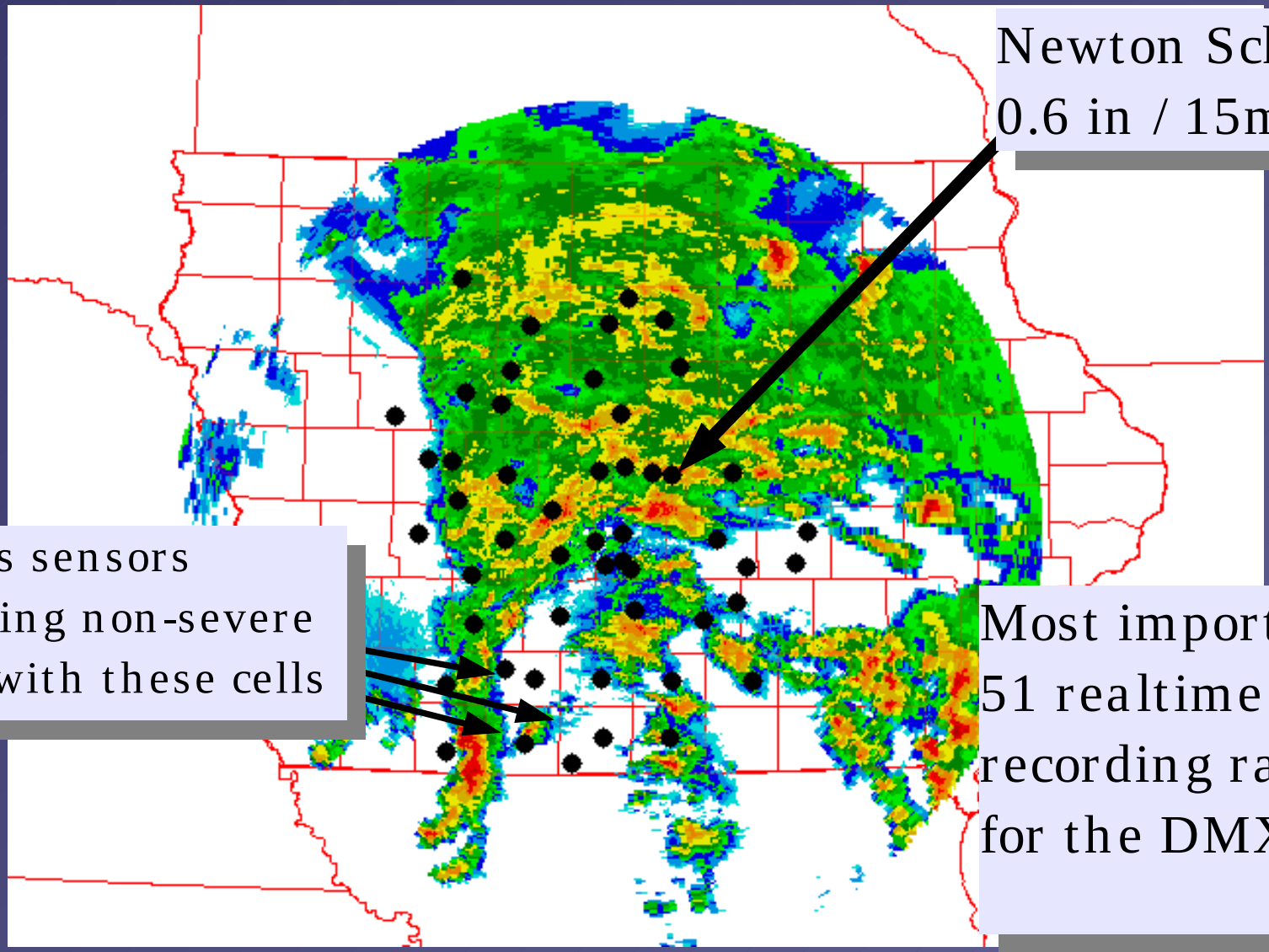
The need for a Mesonet

The Iowa Mesonet collaboration increases your resolution of the near storm environment.

Whoaaa! Dude, where is my RADAR?



What the Mesonet provided



Newton School
0.6 in / 15min

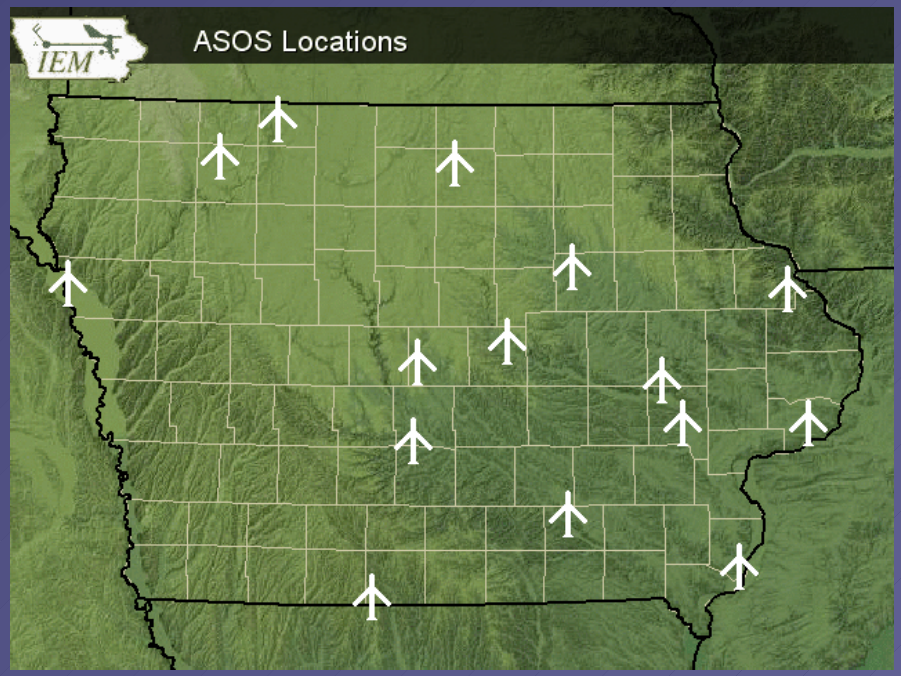
Various sensors indicating non-severe winds with these cells

Most importantly, 51 realtime sensors recording rainfall just for the DMX CWA.

IEM Component Networks

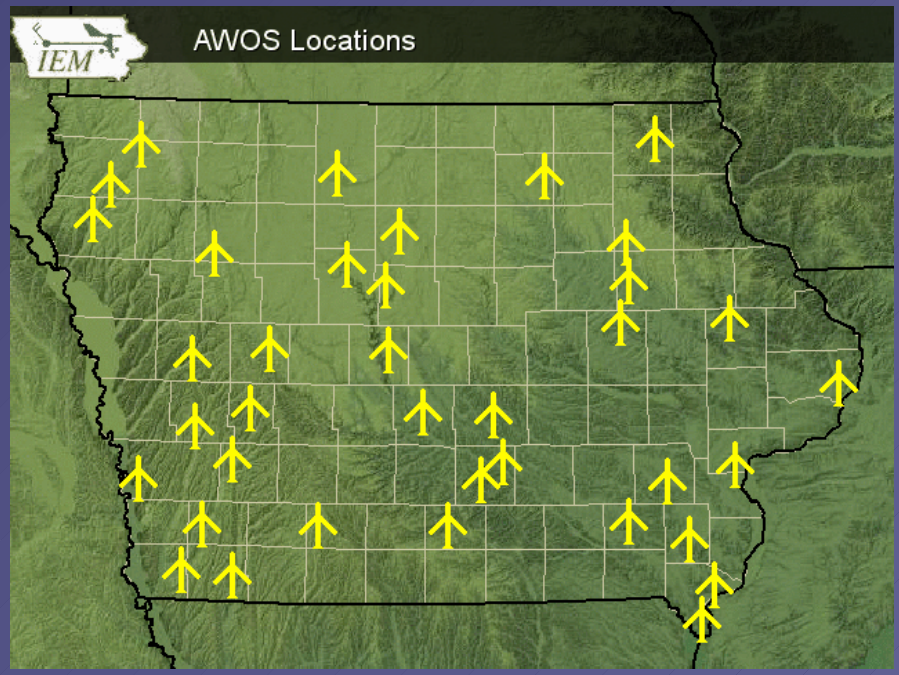
ASOS - Automated Surface Observing System

- Sites
  - 15 +2 (CWI+FOD)
- Location
  - Primary Airports
- Purpose
  - Support aviation



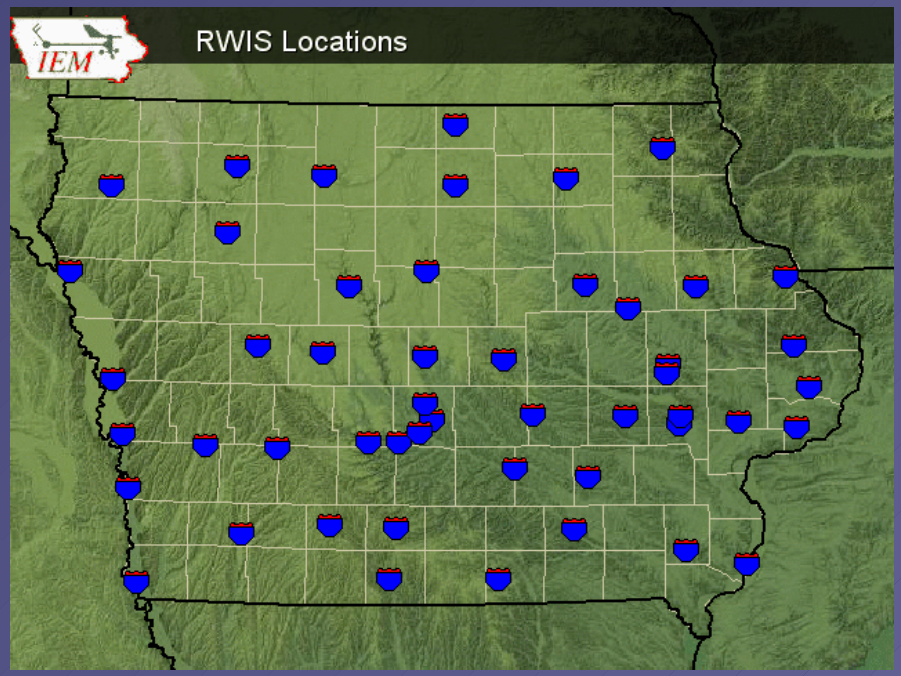
AWOS – Automated Weather Observing System

- Sites
  - 35 +2 (CWI+FOD)
- Location
  - Smaller Airports
- Purpose
  - Support aviation



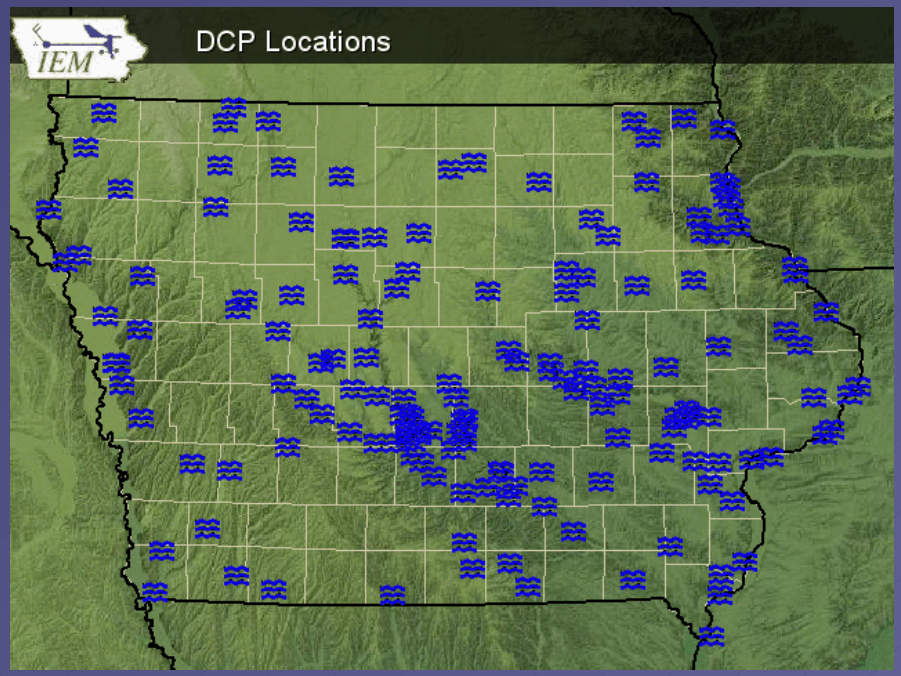
RWIS – Roadway Weather Information System

- Sites
  - 51 Online
- Location
  - Along major roads near bridges
- Purpose
  - Road maintenance support in winter



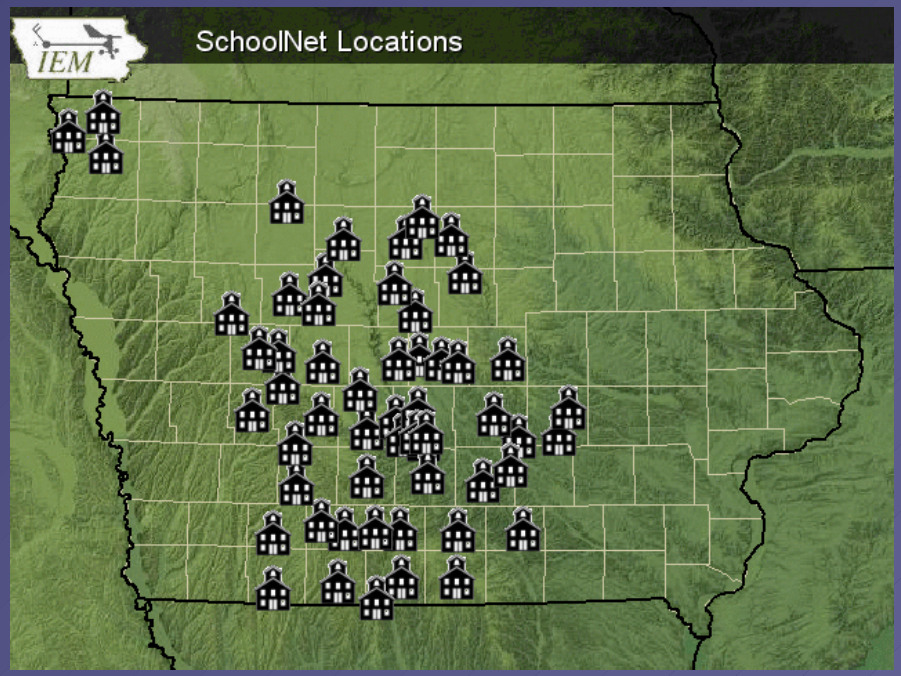
DCP – Data Collection Platforms

- Sites
  - 161
- Location
  - Along rivers
- Purpose
  - Monitor river stages



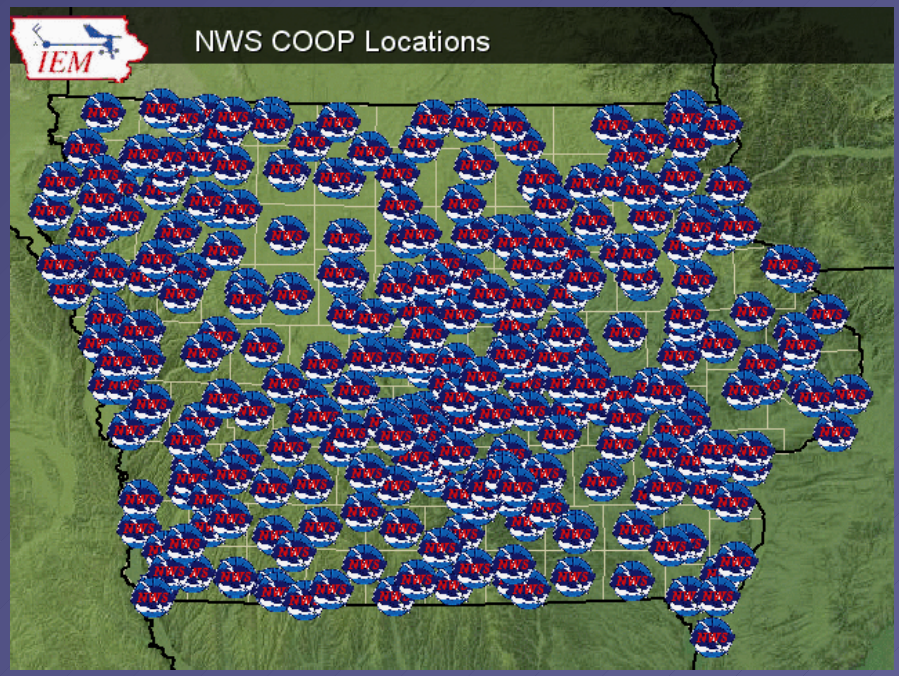
SchoolNet (KCCI-TV & KELO-TV)

- Sites in Iowa
  - 58 (97 total)
- Locations
  - Roofs of schools
- Purpose
  - **Support local science curriculum**



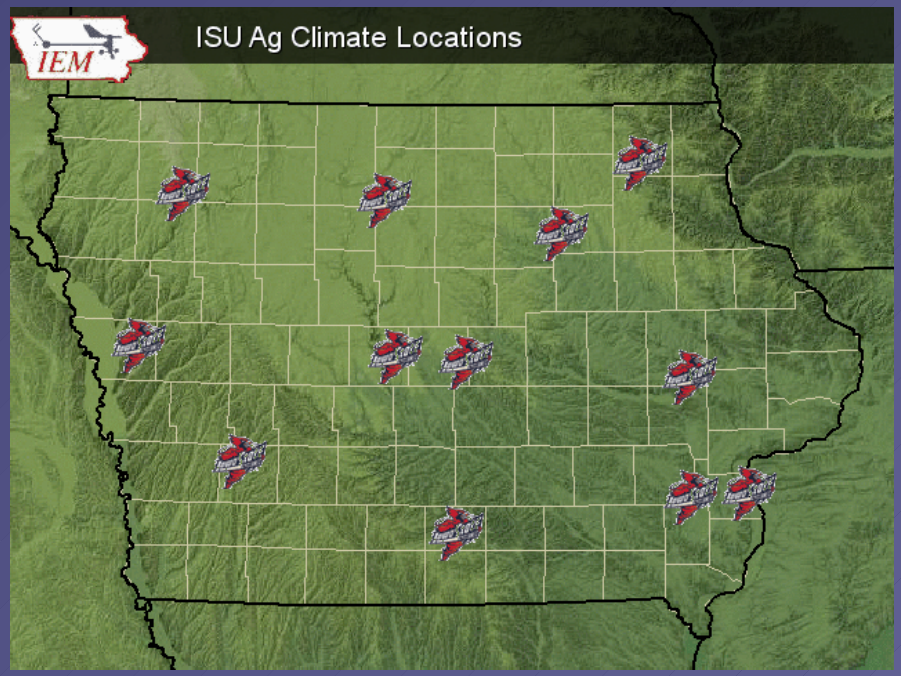
NWS COOP – Cooperative Observing Program

- Sites
  - 145
- Locations
  - Backyards, fields, about anywhere
- Purpose
  - Climate and hydro monitoring



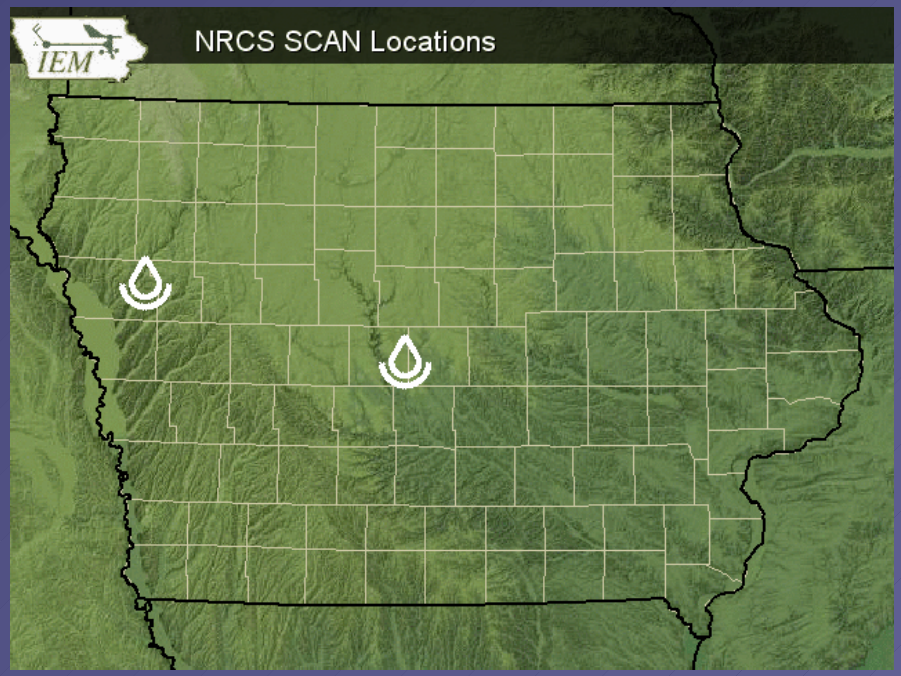
ISU Ag Climate Network

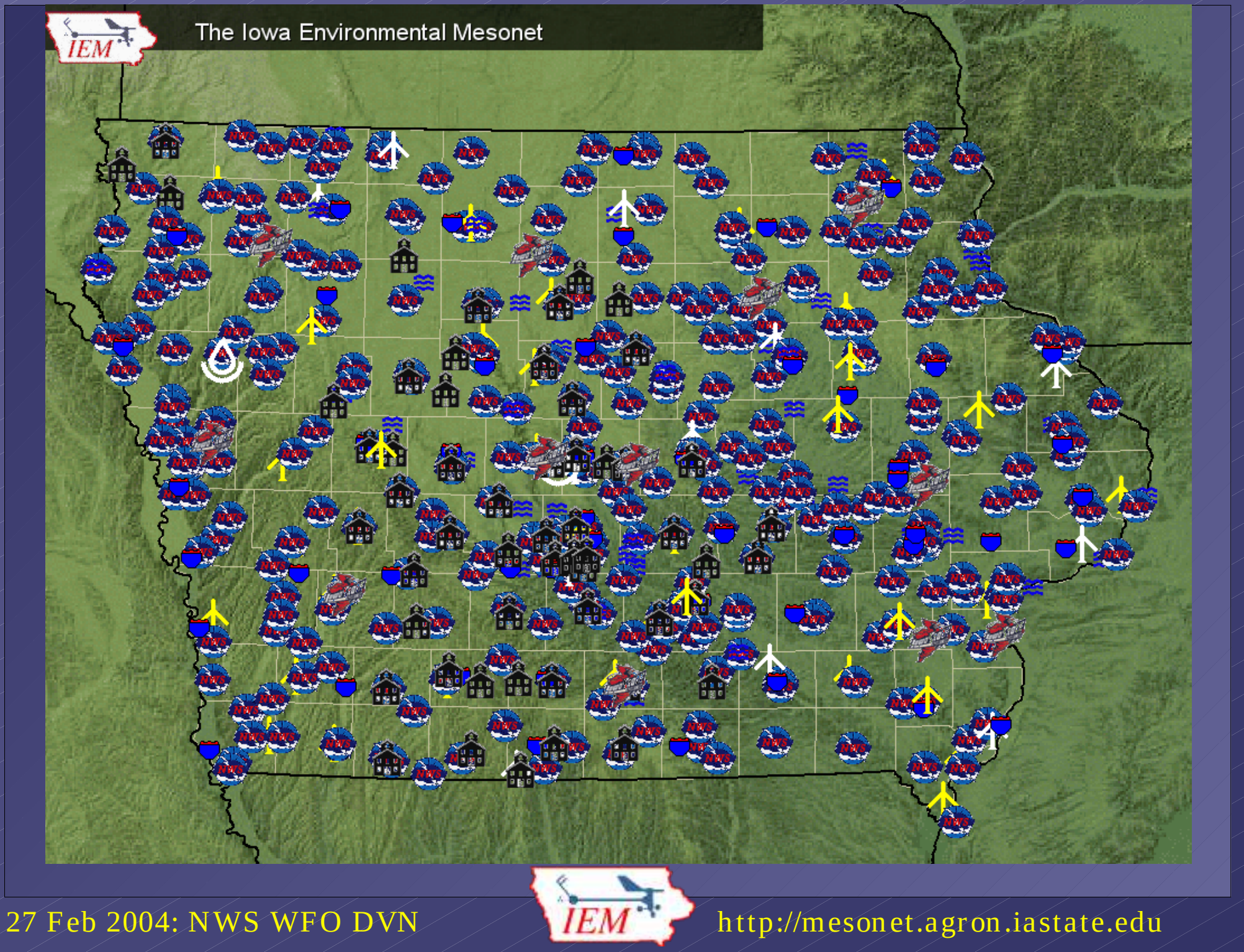
- Sites
  - 12
- Location
  - Open areas near research farms
- Purpose
  - Support Ag activities at the farms



SCAN – Soil Climate Analysis Network

- Sites in Iowa
  - 2
- Location
  - Fields
- Purpose
  - Monitor soil conditions




IEM
The Iowa Environmental Mesonet
IEM
27 Feb 2004: NWS WFO DVN
http://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu

Data Processed Daily

Network	*# of Sites*	*Obs/Site/Day*	*Obs/Day*	*Obs/Year*
ASOS	15	24	360	131,400
AWOS	37	1,440	53,280	19,447,200
IA NWS COOP	145	1	145	52,925
DCP	161	48	7,728	2,820,720
ISU AgClimate	12	24	288	105,120
RWIS	51	144	7,344	2,680,560
SCAN	2	24	48	17,520
IA SchoolNet	58	1,440	83,520	30,484,800
Misc/Other/RAWS	3	24	72	26,280
Non-Iowa SchoolNet	29	1,440	41,760	15,242,400
Non-Iowa ASOS	400	24	9,600	3,504,000
Non-Iowa COOP	1,000	1	1,000	365,000
	1,913		***205,145***	***74,877,925***

Website Access Stats

	Average	Maximum
Visits per day	500	3,500
Hits per day	65,000	750,000
Megabytes transferred per day	800	2,500
Pure Data Downloads / day	50	100

While website stats are nice, the IEM is much more than just another weather data website!

'Super-Charging' Networks

Value Added Processing

- Too many folks just collect data from network X, use data in application Y
- We make major efforts to help the various networks out.
  - Routing their own data back to them
  - Routing other data to them
  - Website application development
  - Archiving services (download, analysis)
  - QUALITY CONTROL!!!

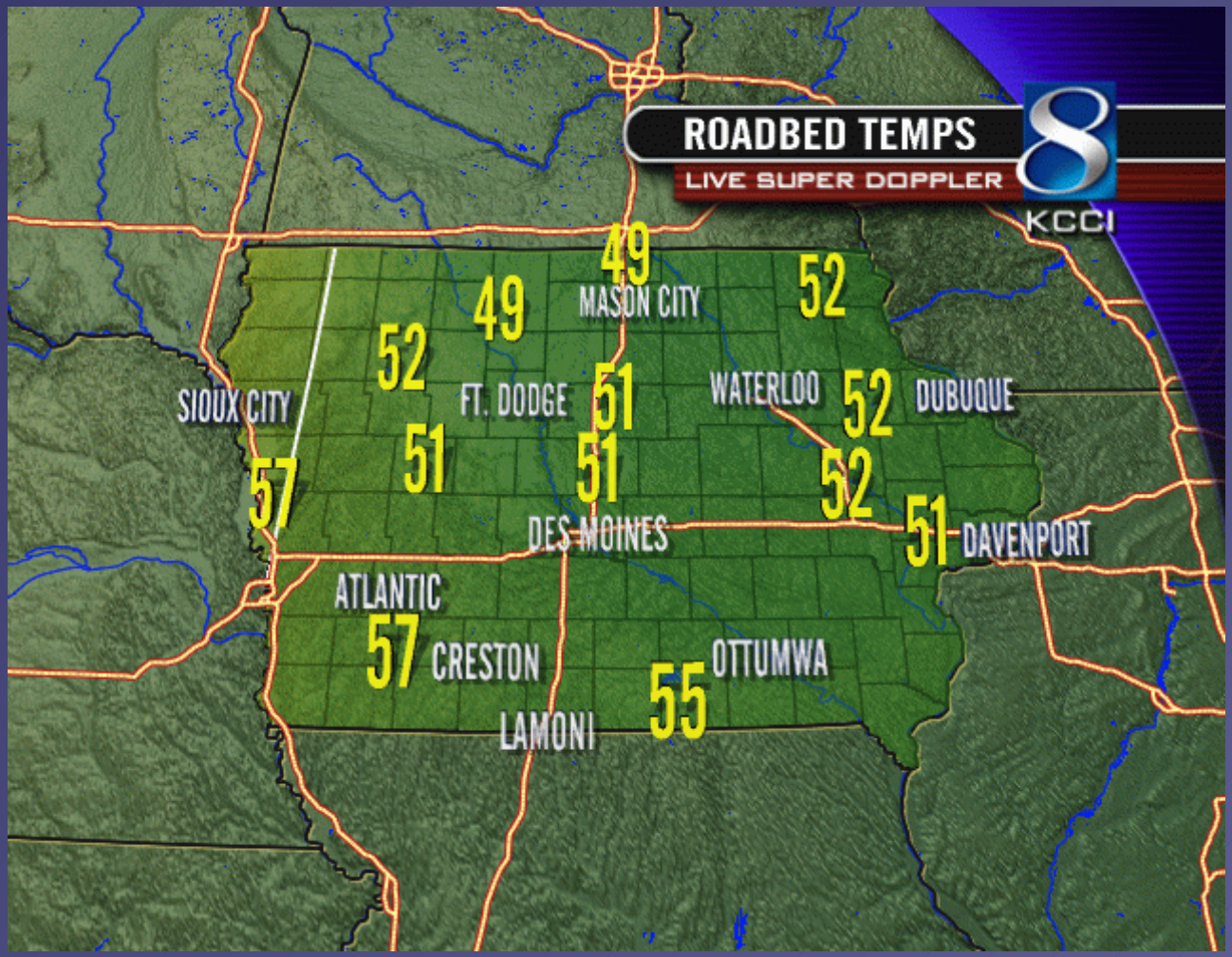
Why work with the networks?

- Network operators are typically lacking
  - IT support
  - An on-staff Meteorologist (a bad thing?)
  - QC expertise
- We give the networks a reason to keep sending us their data.
- We build up their user base to increase the value of their network.

IEM Tracker

- 11,000 trouble tickets have been generated since June 2002.
- All data outages documented.
- Very helpful for the SchoolNets
- Need to make tickets more visible on the website.

IEM Data Partnerships



On-Air Image generated by KCCI-TV showing IaDOT owned Roadway Weather Sensor (RWIS) information.

Working with the NWS

Automated AWIPS Wind Alerts

File Edit Options Version Tools Scripts Products Help

AFOS Browser | Load History | WMO Search | Enter Editor | Accum | Update Obs | Clear

AFOS Cmd: WMO TTAAii CCCC: AWIPS ID:

```
KCCI SNET OB: [06:54]   96 MPH GUST SGLI4 Glidden Ralston _ Glidden
   LATEST OB: [06:54] 65/64 70MPH from NNW  P: 01.25" RR: 00.00"
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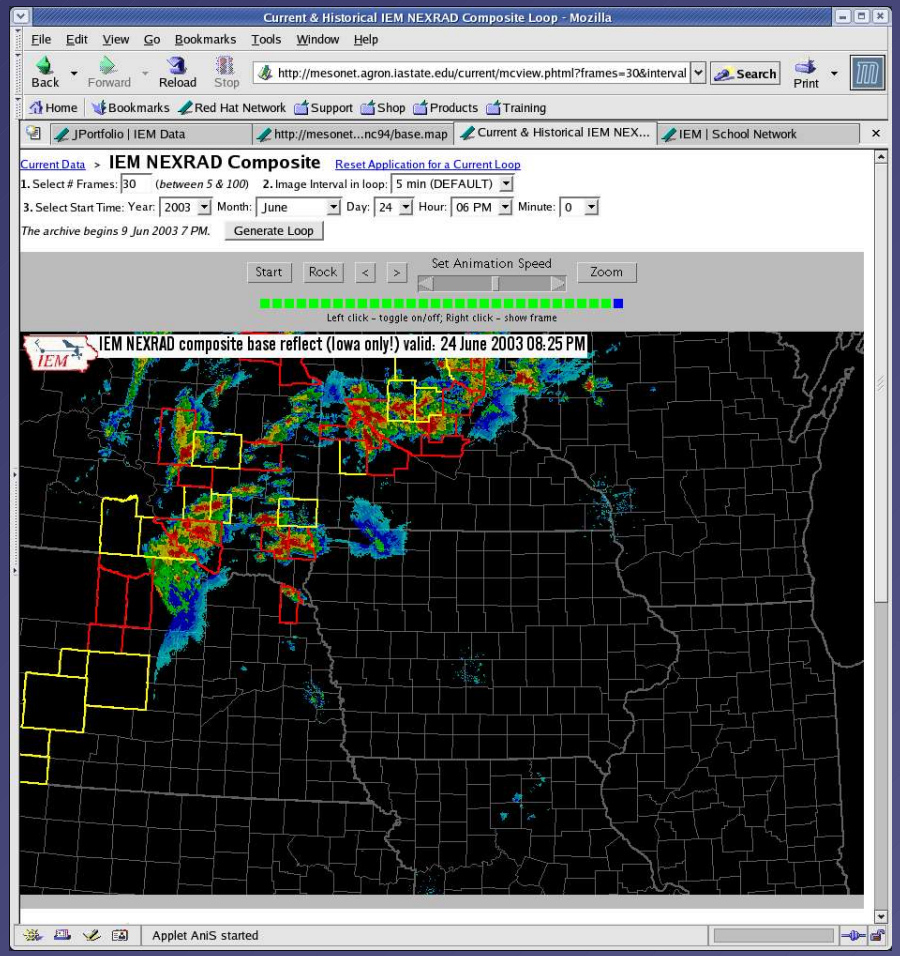
Des Moines NWS Forecasters using an automated wind alert from the SchoolNet. (Craig Cogil & Gary Forester)

Current/Archived RADAR



- 5 minute composites since 4 Jun 2003
- DMX displays current loop on their projection system during severe weather
- Useful for building animations for presentations (hint-hint)
- Will backfill archive as requests are made

Formatting Data for AWIPS

- Generate LDAD csv files of RWIS data
- Generate LDAD csv and SHEF encoded of School data
- Wind alerts trigger AWIPS bell
- All routed directly to LDAD via LDM
- FSD, DMX, ABR, UDX, OAX(?) all currently feeding on data from the IEM

Iowa AWOS Situation

Background Info

- In the spring of 2002, the state zeroed the AWOS budget and the network was nearly lost.
- Today, the network is operational but producing lots of questionable data.
- The biggest problem is that most centers consider this data as ASOS quality.

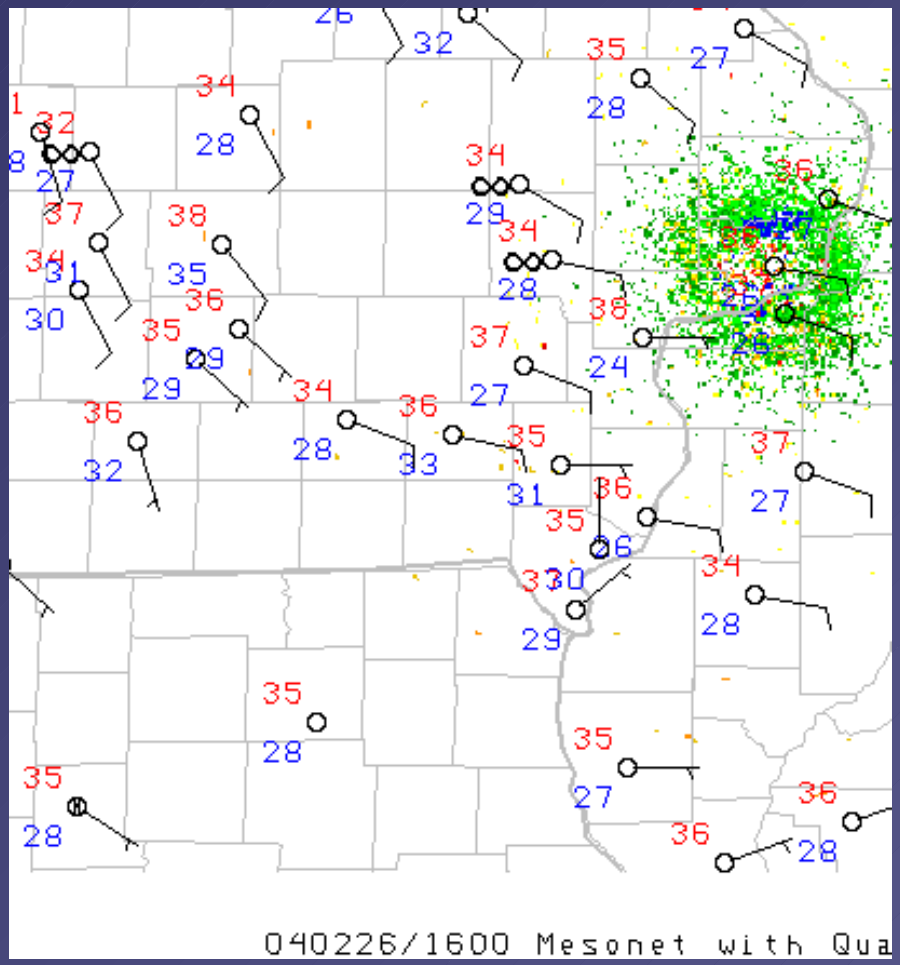
Incorrect Calibrations

	Date	Change T	Change Td	Change RH
Denison	10/02/03	2	4	3
Harlan	10/02/03	6	11	8
Orange City	11/06/03	2	10	20
Sheldon	11/06/03	3	7	19
Algona	11/06/03	4	4	0
Newton	12/02/03	0	13	27
Ankeny	12/02/03	0	9	23
LeMars	12/15/03	0	6	19
Fairfield	12/17/03	3	7	12
Fort Madison	12/17/03	-4	4	18
Keokuk	12/17/03	0	3	11

"Rule-32" Dew Points
Max Dew Points for 26 Feb 2004

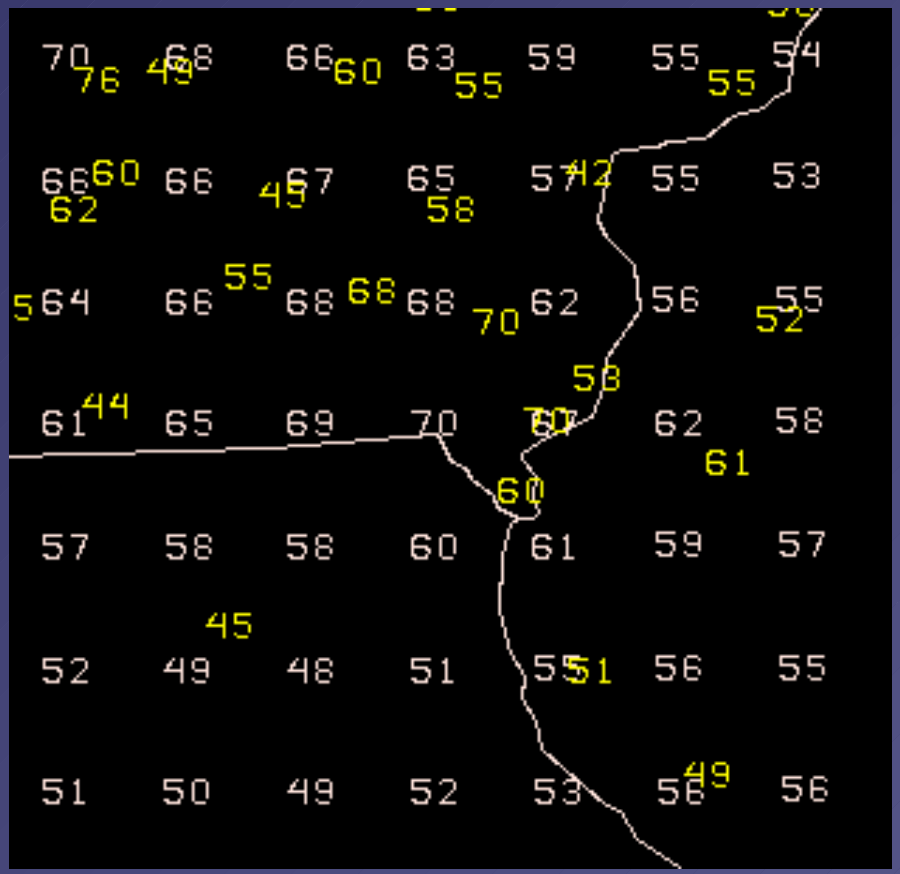
- All Iowa ASOS
  - IOW 30 MIW 30
  - ALO 31 SUX 32
  - SPW 31 LWD 32
  - CID 29 DSM 31
  - MCW 31 EST 31
  - DBQ 28
  - OTM 30
  - DVN 29
  - AMW 30
  - BRL 29
- AWOS > 32
  - ORC 41 SDA 34
  - TNU 39 CCY 34
  - DNS 39 BNW 33
  - MPZ 38 CSQ 33
  - LRJ 37 ADU 33
  - FFL 37 OKV 33 IKV 36 CBF 33
  - SHL 36 CBF 33 HNR 36 IIB 33
  - FSW 35 EOK 33
  - CNC 35 CIN 33
  - CAV 35

Impacts



- FFL Td -> 33 ?
- TNU Td -> 35 ?
- North wind at FSW? (ADAS problem?)
- If true, where is the moisture coming from?

NCEP Impacts



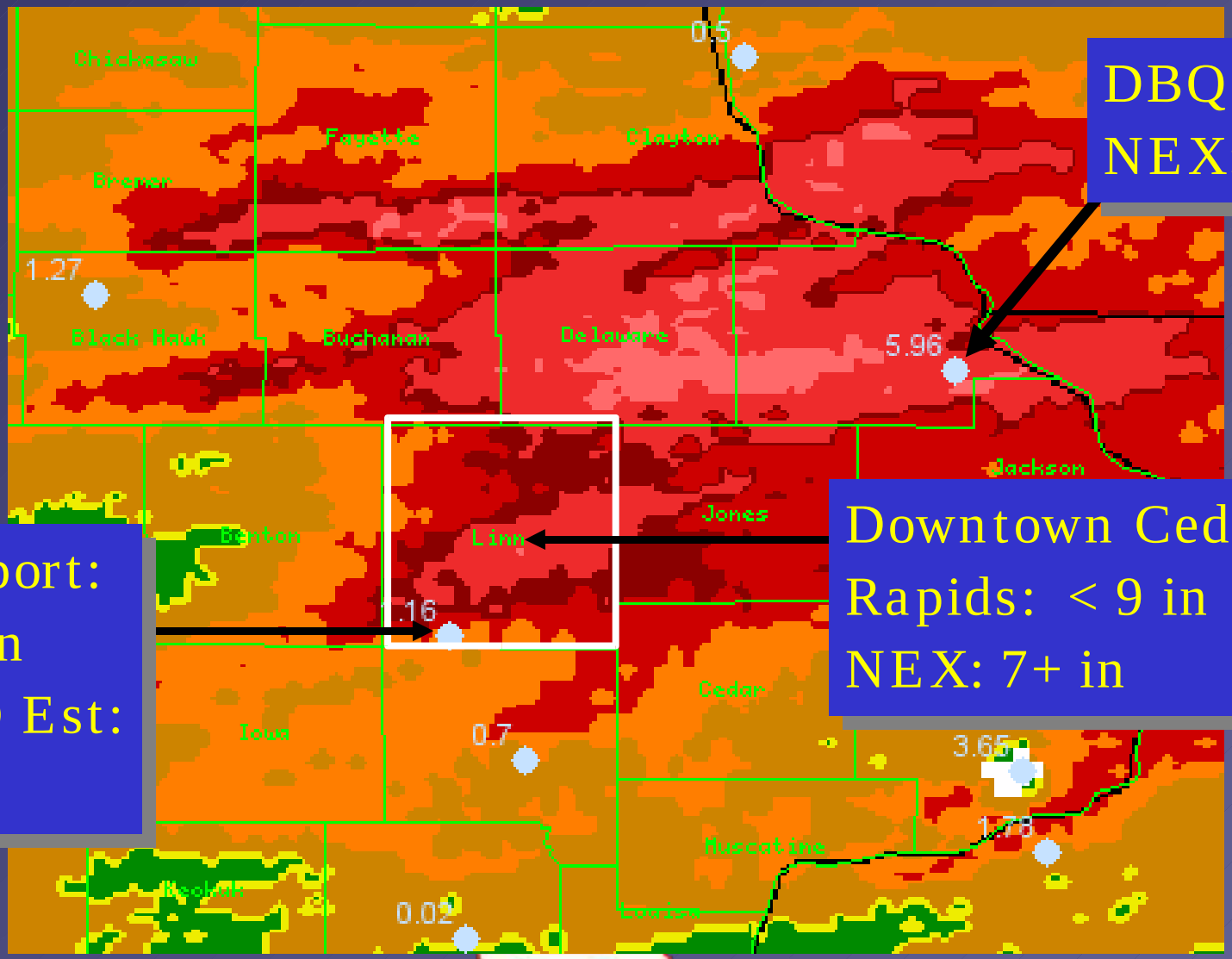
- As you know, AWOS data is ingested for the models.
- RUC is showing the effects of this data in its analysis
- Biggest impacts yet to come (CAPE!)

WFO Operations Impact

- Overnight low forecasting, NDFD :)
- Wind Chill advisory criteria
- Fog Forecasting
- Climatology
- MOS (most AWOS sites will be removed 1 March)

IEM GIS Applications

3-4 June 2002 Flooding

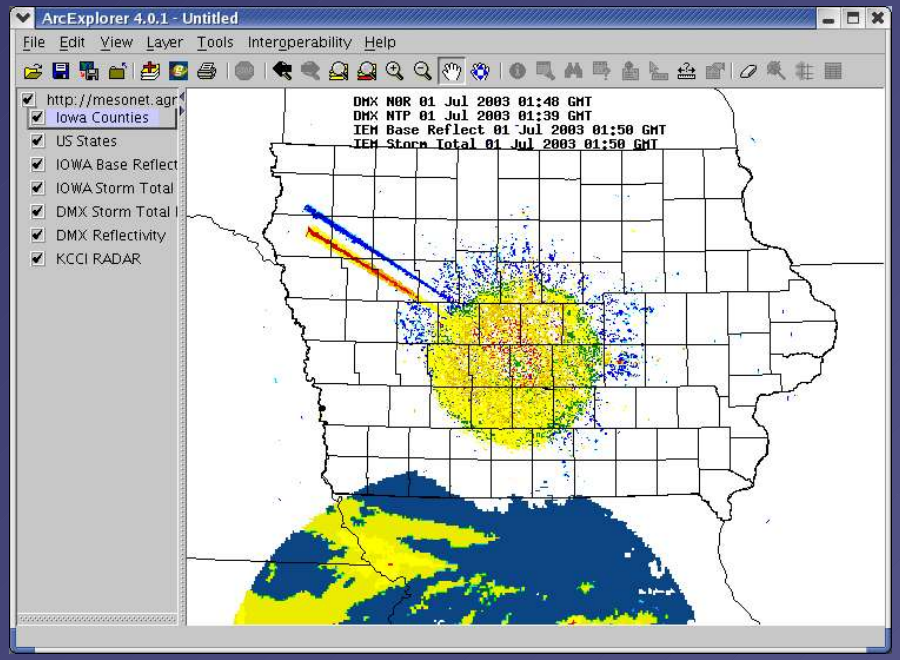


DBQ: 5.96 in
NEX: 7+ in

Downtown Cedar Rapids: < 9 in
NEX: 7+ in

CID Airport: 1.16 in
NEXRAD Est: 2 in

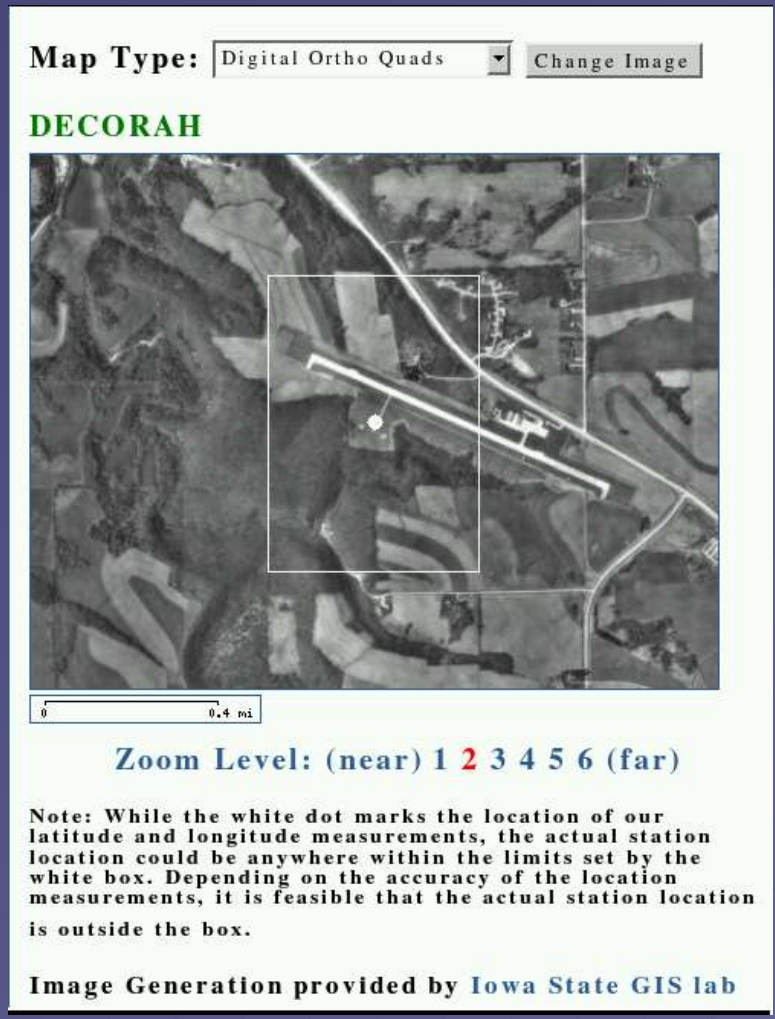
IEM RadView



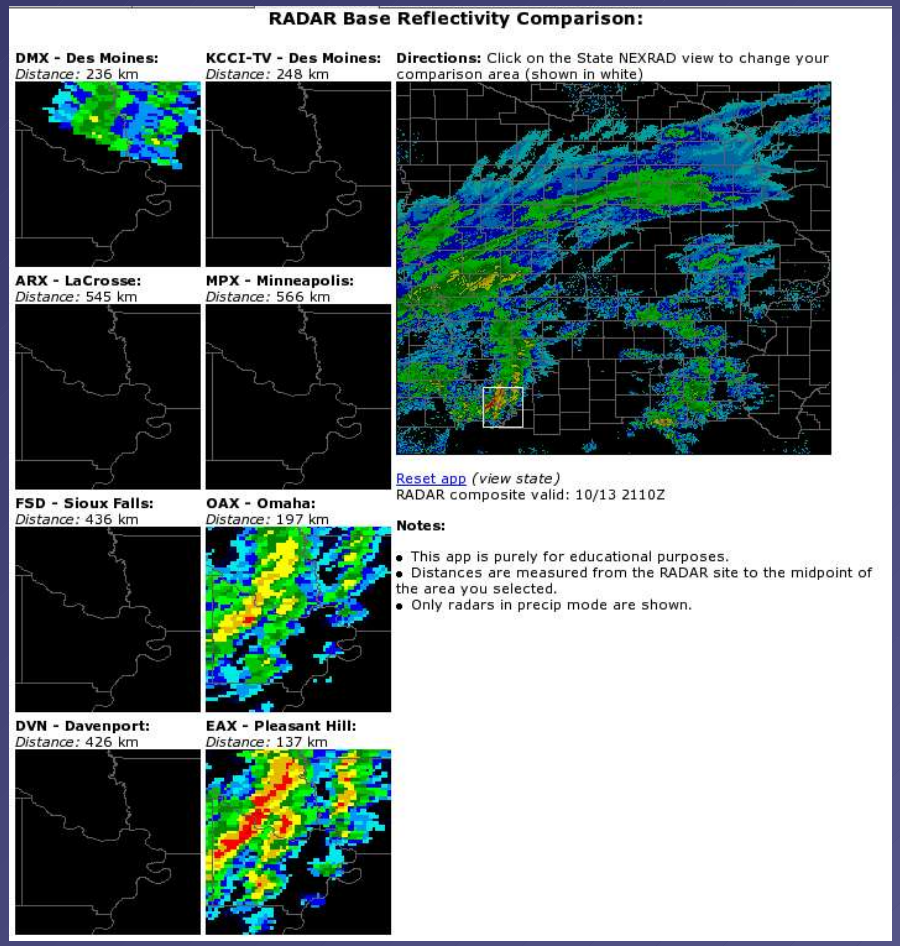
- Effort to provide real-time RADAR data into GIS
- First publicly accessible NEXRAD WMS
- Mapserver HOWTO

OGC Web Services

- Open GIS Consortium (OGC) develops standards for GIS systems to inter-operate
  - Web Map Service (WMS)
  - Web Feature Service (WFS)
- Dynamically bring in Ortho Quads from the ISU GIS Lab
- All generated with Open-Source software and Open GIS standards

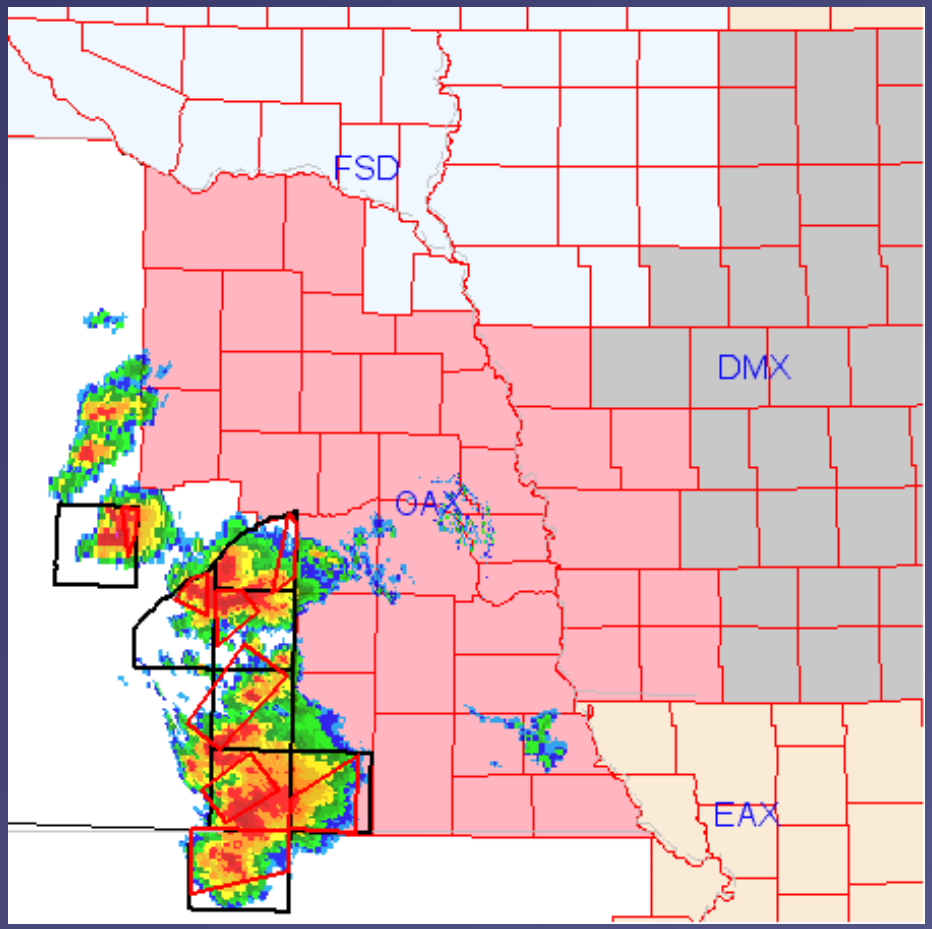


Iowa RADAR comparison



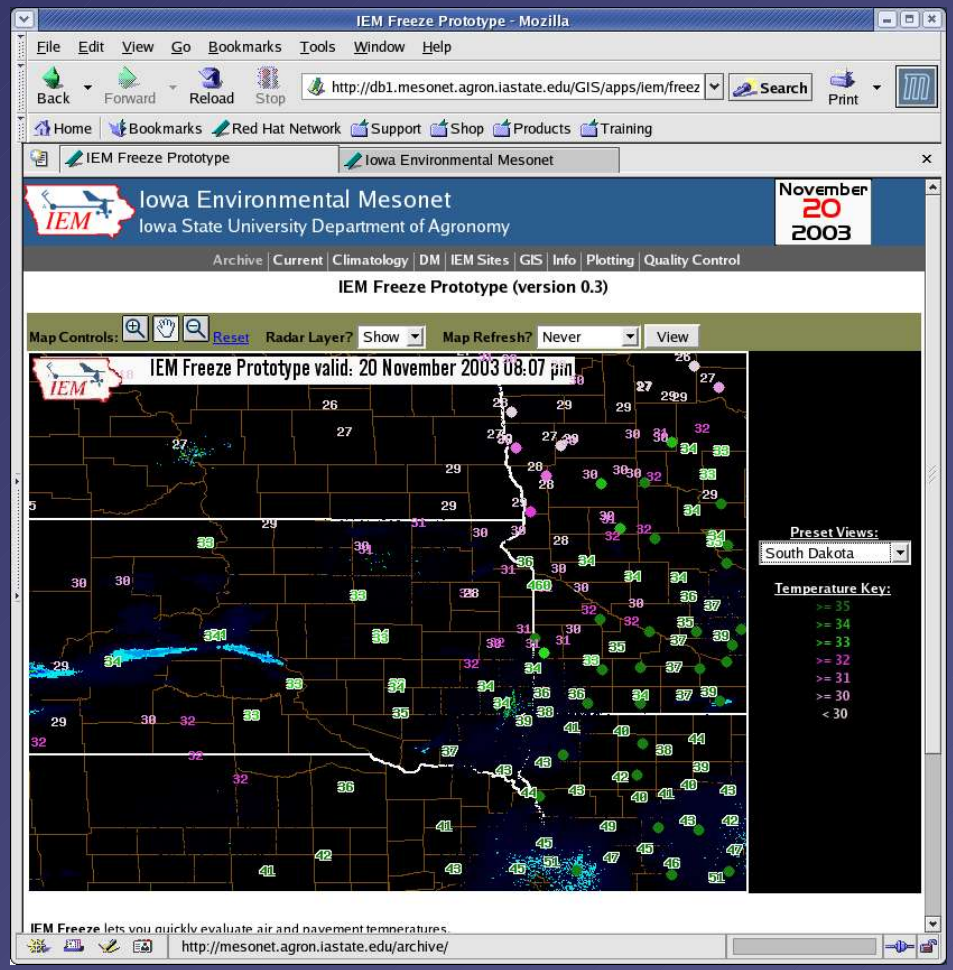
- Compare base reflectivity from the 8 RADARs we collect data from
- More GISish App
  - Click interface
  - Distance calculation
  - KCCI reprojected

NWS Warnings + NEXRAD



- Loop GIS layers to produce an interesting animation of warnings and NEXRAD product
- Works nationwide!

IEM Freeze

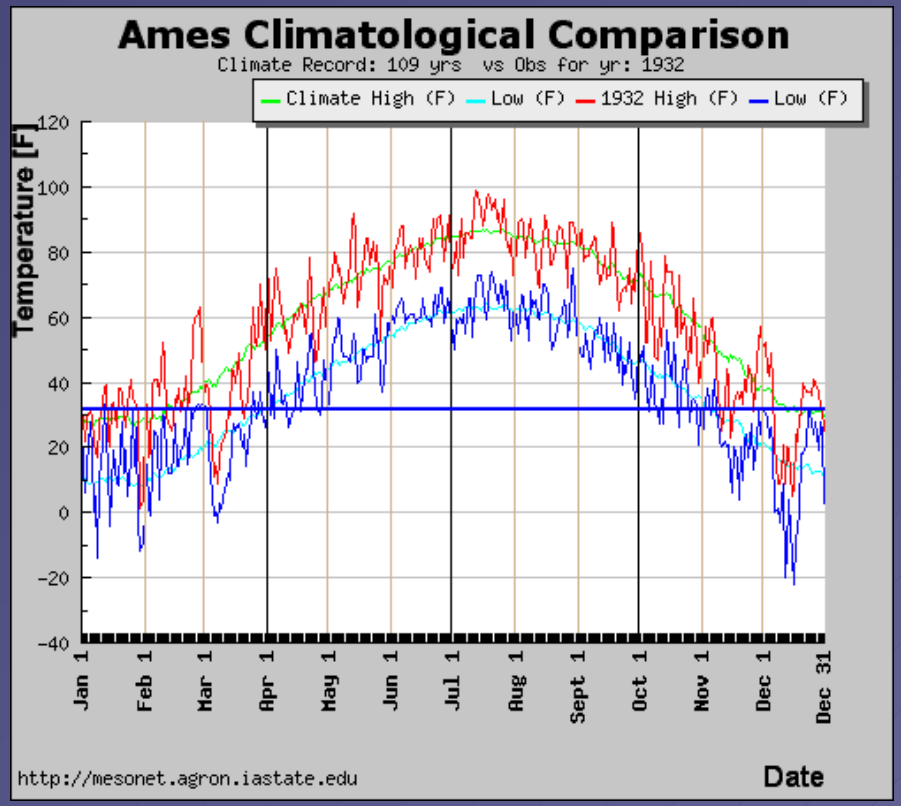


- Combine
  - RWIS pavement temperatures
  - IEM air temperatures
  - RADAR composite
- A GIS interface for custom views
- Feedback needed!

Fun with COOP data

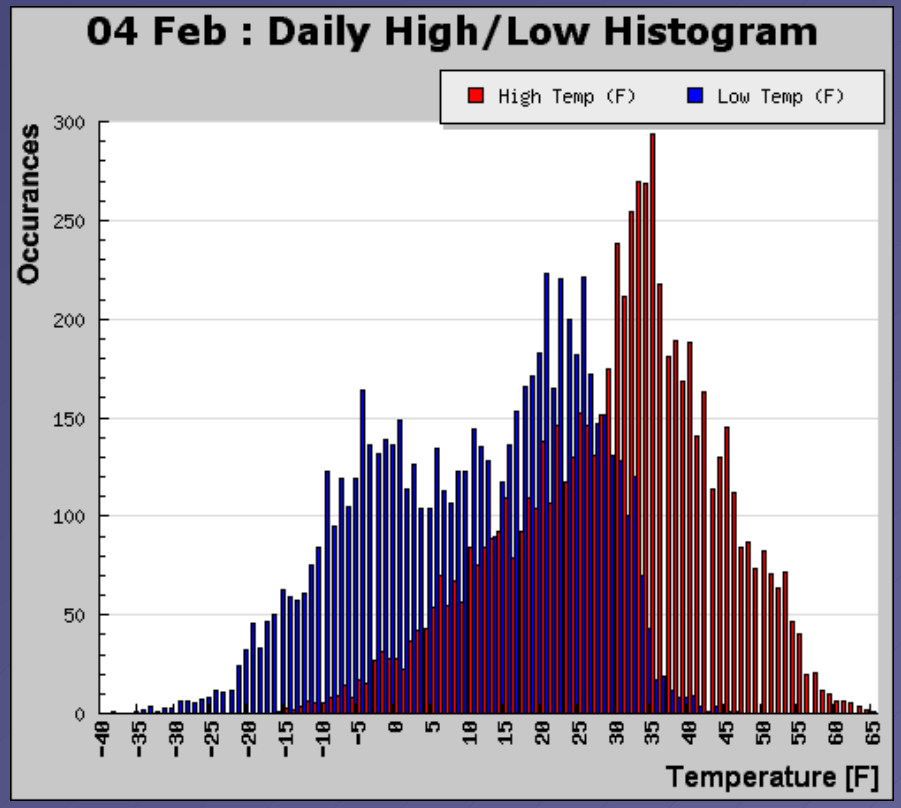
Climatological Differences

- Interactively query the NWS COOP climate database.
- Example, compare daily temperature climatology versus what actually happened that year!



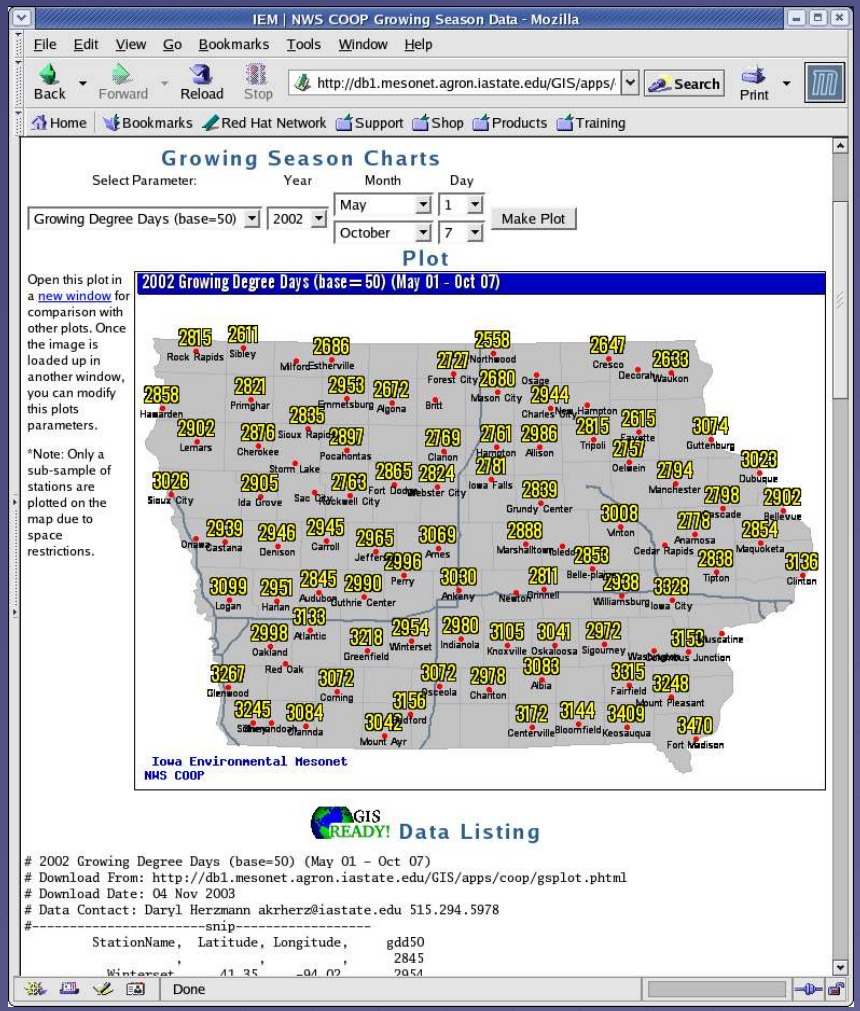
Daily Temperature Spreads

- Accumulate all high / low temperatures for a day and produce a histogram
- Dynamically generated on the website



Historical GDD data

- Dynamically generate GDD, SDD from the COOP climate archive
- Customized Period
- Dynamically generated output plot.
- GIS Ready dataset presented immediately below



Time for **WEB** demos?

I'm done, questions?

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