

The CWB Weather Station Network

FAQs for Farmers

1. What is an on-farm weather station?

An on-farm weather station is a wireless, solar-powered monitoring device that takes accurate, real-time weather measurements and transmits them to a computer or LCD console.

2. What kind of information does it provide?

Wind speed and direction, humidity, precipitation, temperature, barometric pressure, dew point, plus hourly forecasts. Readings are updated to the LCD every 2.5 seconds.

3. What can I do with this information?

Up-to-the-moment readings of current conditions are valuable in their own right but by joining WeatherBug's network you will also have access to information from other monitoring stations. WeatherBug's online suite of Web sites provides an immediate view of surface weather plots, satellite and radar, as well as the capacity to create local forecasts and plot weather variables over a period of time.

4. Where is a weather station installed?

Wherever you want to monitor the weather, usually on your farm. A weather station requires a computer with high-speed Internet access. If you farm a parcel of land that's separate from the rest of your farm, you might want to put a second station there or to access information from another networked station nearby. Weather stations are erected where they can best do their job out in the open, away from wind breaks and hollows.



5. Do I have to be connected to the "network"?

You don't have to be. Your own weather station will provide real-time data regardless of whether you're connected to the network. However, there are significant advantages to being connected. Subscribers have access to current and past data from all other networked stations and the capacity to plot this information on charts and graphs. As well, they can access WeatherBug weather data via a cell phone or other wireless device. The annual subscription fee is \$100.

6. How do I get a weather station?

Get in touch with your Farm Business Representative or contact Guy Ash at 204-984-6820 or guy_ash@cwbc.ca.

7. Who installs it?

Your on-farm weather station will be installed by a CWB technician or you can install it yourself by following the instructions in our installation manual.

8. How long does it take?

Your weather station will be installed approximately two to four weeks after your order has been received. It depends in part on location, time of year, and the number of orders we're dealing with at the time. It takes about an hour to install a weather station.

9. Is the whole project up and running now?

Individual weather stations provide up-to-the-moment readings via the console as soon as they're installed. In some areas, a number of weather stations have already been erected; data from these stations are available to anyone participating in the network. The CWB and WeatherBug plan to install 600 on-farm stations across the Prairies over the next three years. Each station that joins the network will improve the quality and quantity of information available through this project.

10. What is the total cost, everything included?

The cost of a personal weather station is \$900. Installation by a CWB technician is free for farmers (a savings of \$500 to \$700). Subscribing to the network costs \$100 per year. Costs for industry and business are available on request.