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May 12th, 2015

Dear Mr. Wickham,

On January 7, 2014, Governor Cuomo announced the NYS Early Warning Weather Detection System - an advanced, statewide early warning weather detection system or Mesonet. This network will be the first of its kind in New York, and will consist of up to 125 surface weather stations that will detect weather phenomenon across the entire state. This early warning weather detection system will provide federal, state, and local government officials with access to high-resolution, real-time data, and more robust predictive models. With these products available emergency management decision-makers will be enabled to mitigate and better plan for extreme and devastating weather events. In addition, these stations will empower critical agricultural research and will be great educational outreach tools. The New York State Mesonet promises a new generation of local weather observations that will support more accurate, more precise agriculture-related models. For example, soil moisture and temperature data will improve irrigation efficiency, and various pest models will be much improved with more local data inputs.

Each weather station will measure wind, temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation, pressure, soil moisture and temperature. To properly measure these variables, great care must be taken to ensure the highest data quality. For example, each station must be at least 300 feet from the nearest tall obstacles or potential heat sources. Most sensors will be mounted on a 33 ft tower at the center of a 33 ft x 33 ft plot of land. Each site is solar powered with real-time communications. An example meteorological station and additional background information (from the Oklahoma Mesonet website) can also be viewed at <http://www.mesonet.org/index.php/sites/site_description/okem> as we are modelling our network after the Oklahoma Mesonet. Upon completion, real time data along with graphical products/models will be available to the public via our website [NYSMesonet.org](http://www.NYSMesonet.org). Note that this system is designed to be a permanent network, providing New York with critical data for years to come. The University at Albany will pay for any costs associated with the installation and will handle all of the maintenance and repair associated.

We hope you’ll consider this invitation, and we look forward to discussing this opportunity with you. If you are interested please contact me via e-mail at jbrotzge@albany.edu or by phone at 518-442-6376.

Best regards,

Jerry Brotzge, PhD

Program Manager

New York State Mesonet