

PROVIDING PRODUCT SOLUTIONS
ADDRESSING WEATHER RISKS AND
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**Western
Weather
Group**

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Weather *focus*

JAN 2012

Solutions to Make Your Job Easier

KEEPING INFORMED WHILE ON THE GO

Today everyone is constantly on the go sending and receiving information via smartphones. The Campbell Scientific automated weather stations from Western Weather Group can provide real-time weather data plus alarms with text messages and email to any web enabled device to keep you informed while on the go.



You can be in constant contact with what is going on in the fields, vineyards and orchards from temperature alarms to controlling irrigation pumps and determining when they are on. The Campbell Scientific dataloggers with a digital cellular modem can communicate over the internet from just about any location providing real-time information from the datalogger's built-in web page feature.

To prepare for the upcoming frost and growing season, [contact](#) Western Weather Group to learn how this technology will make your job easier.

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Forecast Corner

CAN WE STILL REACH NEAR NORMAL RAINFALL FOR THE YEAR?...UNLIKELY

Dry conditions have overtaken all of California during the late fall and early winter. This lack of mountain snow and lowland rainfall is causing problems heading into 2012. The Northern Hemisphere is currently in a weak to moderate La Nina episode (below average sea surface temperature across the eastern and central equatorial Pacific Ocean). Compared to last year's La Nina with above normal rainfall in California, it can be seen that weather conditions can vary widely from episode to episode. In December 2011, Chico received 0.22 inches of rain which was



less than 10 percent of the average rainfall for the month. Between June through December, 2011 Chico had received a total of only 3.81 inches, 38% of normal.

As of January 11, there is an indication that the strong Eastern Pacific High will break down by the third week in the month and open the door for North Pacific storms to reach northern and central California with the potential for several days of rain the last two weeks of January. The outlook for February through April is for temperatures to be below normal over much of California. The long range models do not show a tendency for either above or below normal rainfall for the remaining winter months or during the spring. Thus, California will likely end up with below normal rain for the rainfall year, June 1, 2011 through July 31, 2012.

Knowledge Base

SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING



The HydroSense II by Campbell Scientific is a new portable, handheld device for easily obtaining soil moisture measurements near the surface. Features include:



- Rugged probe design
- Navigation buttons
- Internal memory
- Internal GPS receiver
- Bluetooth communications
- Powerful PC software

The handheld display has a button layout that enables one-hand operation. More than 1,000 measurements can be stored in its internal memory. The integrated GPS receiver allows each measurement to be tagged with its latitude and longitude. The measurements can then be grouped into zones and each zone's average soil moisture calculated.

The handheld display's data are transmitted to a PC wirelessly via Bluetooth. PC software designed specifically for the

Vocabulary & Acronyms

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ..???



Each forecast issued by WWG contains a description of the overall weather conditions occurring at **any** given point in the selected forecast area.

Most forecasts indicate the *sky condition* and what percentage of the sky will be covered by clouds (*see below chart*).

<u>Term</u>	<u>Sky Cover</u>
Clear/Sunny	< 12%
Mostly Sunny	12% to 25%
Partly Cloudy	38% to 63%
Mostly Cloudy	75% to 88%
Cloudy	> 88%

When describing the probability of precipitation, the forecaster is expressing measurable rain falling in the forecast area (*see sample below*)

<u>Term</u>	<u>Probability</u>
Isolated Showers	10%
Scattered Showers	30% to 50%
Rain Likely	60% to 100%

Rain is defined as a widespread event and lasts for a while. Showers are by nature, more scattered and shorter in duration.

Action Item

CLEANING RAIN GAUGE "TIPS"

HydroSense II allows the user to show data in a table or chart formats.

Upcoming 2012 Events

LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITING WITH YOU AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS....

Dollars & Sense
Santa Rosa Jan 19

Unified Wine Symposium
Sacramento Jan 25, 26

World Ag Expo
Tulare Feb 14,15,16



Between now and the end of the last rainy season it is not unusual for rain gauge funnels to fill up with dirt, leaves and other debris. Now is the time to clean out the

rain gauge funnels. Make sure the tipping bucket does not tip in the process. If after a recent rain you find that the rainfall totals do not seem to be accurate on your automated weather station then it is most likely due to the rain gauge funnel being plugged.



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