

What's the Long Range Outlook???

Omni Weather
Consulting Meteorologists

This is one of the many questions that meteorologists are asked daily. Unfortunately, the weather products used in forecasting the weather have not improved much since the '40s for long term predictions. Most of the emphasis on technological improvements have had to do with satellite imagery and radar which are really only beneficial for a number of hours. Therefore, long term forecasts are in reality nothing more than guesses. A classroom of children have an equal chance of being right in forecasting 1-3 months in advance as does the National Weather Service or a private weather service which claims it specializes in long term forecasting. Meteorologists are able to make fairly accurate 5-7 day forecasts.

The latest rage by the National Weather Service in their long term outlooks is using the term 'equal chances' for having above or below temperatures and rainfall. Now having seen their work, we must ask ourselves — how in the world do they come up with such an astute prediction? Below is a description of the National Weather Service's secret formula as taken from the 'Climate Analysis Center Vo. 40, Number 14'. The predictions in each outlook are formed by a combination of empirical methods.

For the monthly outlooks, these methods included:

1. Extrapolation of the movement and changes of anomalies or abnormal features appearing on the sequence of recent monthly average charts of the northern hemisphere circulation at 700 mb, 10,000 feet.
2. Statistical estimation of month to month persistence of the circulation to be expected at each point at each time of year.
3. Physical reasoning about the likelihood of instability and changes in the major wave trains in the hemispheric circulation.
4. Examination of the current 5-day dynamical predictions of the hemispheric circulation for immediate signs of these or other changes.
5. Testing of the coherence and plausibility of the various projected circulation anomalies by the use of spatial teleconnection statistics.
6. Subjective reconciling of conflicts in the projections.
7. Inferences as to what temperature and precipitation patterns should follow from the circulation projections, using statistical specification equations, conditional probabilities keyed to predicted anomaly centers, and past cases similar to the predicted circulation.

The seasonal forecast procedures omit spatial extrapolation of the anomalies, instability reasoning, and the use of five day dynamical prediction. They add:

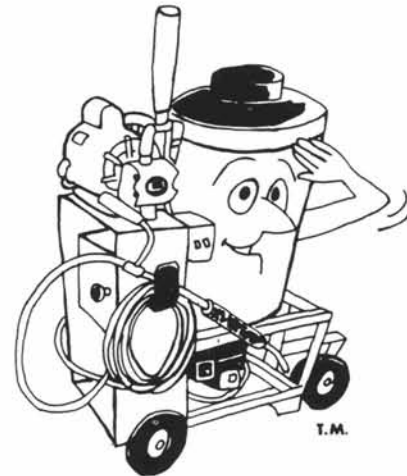
1. Statistical estimates of the persistence of 700 mb anomalies at various lags beyond a month — one, two, three, four, and eight seasons.
2. Statistical contingency estimates of U.S. state-averaged temperatures from temperatures one or two seasons earlier.
3. Statistical estimates of the consequences of anomalous North Pacific and equatorial Pacific sea surface temperatures, when these appear to be significant.

Among the methods not used for either monthly or seasonal prediction are supposed periodicities or cycles of weather and supposed connections to solar system configurations.

After doing all of these steps, one would think that the result would be rather conclusive one way or another. Statistics have proven that only 40% of the time do temperatures and rainfall fall in the normal range. Therefore, one has in reality a 50% opportunity of being correct by choosing above or below normal conditions for a month or season.

hotsy®

The Hot Water Cleaner For Heavy Duty Jobs



© 1976
THE HOTSY CORPORATION

Hotsy will save you time and money:

Dirt can cripple equipment performance. Hotsy removes industrial grime faster and more economically than steam cleaners can.

Hand-cleaning is a tedious time-waster. Hotsy saves employee time and reduces down time on heavy machinery.

***Clean Equipment Runs Better Longer
Let us Clean Something Dirty For You***

● **CALL FOR A FREE DEMONSTRATION** ●

hotsy of Chicago, Inc.

SALES/SERVICE/RENTALS

90 Models • 200 to 15,000 PSI

893-0777

**25 SOUTH PARK STREET
ROSELLE, ILLINOIS**