7 KEY FORECAST VARIABLES

Wind Direction:
Wind is always reported as where it is coming from.
A north wind means from the north and therefore most likely cooler temps.
A south wind means from the south and therefore most likely warmer temps.

Cloud Cover:
Clouds prevent incoming sunlight while preventing outgoing radiation overnight.
When all other factors are considered:
Clouds during the day cause cooler afternoon temps.
Clouds overnight cause warmer morning temps.

Wind Speed:
Wind has a moderating effect on temps. Assuming no major air mass changes (no fronts) and when considering all other factors:
Windy nights are warmer and windy days are cooler.
Calm nights are cooler and calm days are warmer.

Thickness:
Thickness values relate to air density which is primarily due to the average air temperature in the lower troposphere.
Higher thickness indicate a warmer lower atmosphere.
Lower thickness indicate a cooler lower atmosphere.

850 mb T:
Temperature of the air near 5,000 ft. above sea level. Rapidly changing values indicate an air mass change, and most likely a frontal passage.

Dewpoint T:
Air temperature cannot drop below the dewpoint value. Therefore, dewpoints help to forecast the lowest possible temperature overnight. Dewpoints do NOT influence daily high temps.

Air Pressure:
Air pressure changes can signify the passage of weather systems, including weather fronts. Typically, pressure falls fairly rapidly before the arrival of a cold or warm front. After a cold frontal passage, pressure normally rises rapidly due to an increase in air density. After a warm frontal passage, air pressure may remain constant or fall even lower due to a lower air density.