A Day at a National Weather Service office with Sally Salmon and...
Larry
Chicken,
star
forecaster
Checking in for the day...
Larry puts his lunch away. It could be a long day of weather forecasting!
Larry first looks at the big picture....

This satellite picture helps him see what’s happening far away from us.
Larry takes a look at the sky
...and decides what kind of clouds are out there.
Larry also collects data about the current weather in our area, even in the early morning hours before the sun comes up.

Here, Larry is reading a rain gage to see how much rain has fallen in the past few hours.
When it snows, Larry measures how much snow has fallen. On the way back in, Larry can’t resist making a snow angel. Hey! Who threw that snowball?
He also keeps track of the high and low temperature every day.
Larry is thankful for automated weather observing equipment so he doesn’t have to stand outside all day.
Larry watches one of his co-workers launch a weather balloon.
Larry then looks at the data collected from the weather balloon as it goes up through the atmosphere.

The balloon gives him information about how warm or cold, moist or dry...and windy it is high above the ground.
When he is forecasting, Larry spends a lot of time looking at a computer. Radar pictures help him to see where it is raining and snowing.
Satellite pictures help him see where clouds and moisture are.
Analyzing a map helps Larry see patterns in the weather.
Computer models help Larry forecast the weather for the next several days.
Larry doesn’t forecast alone.

Here he discusses the weather with a fellow meteorologist.
Now it’s time to make the forecast!
Sally Salmon is a hydrologist. She keeps track of the local rivers. This is especially important when flooding is a possibility.
Sally looks over the river forecasts that come in from the NWS Northwest River Forecast Center.
She wants to see how high the rivers will rise.
Sally is very happy when her forecasts are accurate!
Sometimes Larry talks to the public.

Hi! Can you tell me what the river stage is on the Nehalem River?

Sure I can. It is 5.62 feet! Have a great day.
Larry talks to local officials when severe weather Watches and Warnings are issued.
When the weather makes the news...

...Larry may be called upon to do interviews with newspapers, TV and radio stations
NOAA Weather Radio provides weather information all day, everyday.
Lots of other people help keep the office working.

Pedro Pollo the Electronics Technician keeps computers and other equipment running smoothly.
So...hopefully, if you pay attention to the weather forecast, you won't be surprised too often.
Thanks for visiting the National Weather Service!