



The National Drought Mitigation Center is partnering with the United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (RMA) to sponsor a workshop on drought management tools. The goal of the workshop is to confer with agricultural producers, extension agents, and agency and organizational representatives on the tools we are currently developing in partnership with the RMA. The tools we are developing:

- *Can help with management decisions such as buying or selling cattle, utilizing irrigation or limited tillage and whether to plant more drought-resistant crops*
- *Have some predictive capability, though it is still highly experimental*
- *Help communicate ground-level perceptions and experiences to far-away decision-makers, claims adjusters and others*
- *Can help track market conditions*

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Location: Walla Walla Regional Airport Conference Room, Walla Walla, WA

We will be focusing on the Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) which is a tool that allows producers and other individuals to monitor vegetation stress at a regional, state, county or sub-county level by using satellite information. We will also be providing a brief overview of several other tools we are developing. Several of the tools are available on-line, at least in developmental stages. A brief description of the tools and their web addresses can be found following the tentative agenda.

Rolls and coffee will be served in the morning and lunch is provided. Producers that attend will receive a small honorarium and reimbursement for mileage to and from Walla Walla.

Please contact Steve Hair at 509-520-4490 or shair02@charter.net, Dave Paul at 509-228-6320 or dave.paul@rma.usda.gov or Meghan Sittler at 402-472-2712 or msittler2@unl.edu to RSVP or with questions.

Tentative schedule:

10:00 a.m.—Registration

10:30 a.m.—Opening Remarks and Introductions (Dave Paul, USDA RMA Spokane and Steve Hair)

10:45 a.m.—Overview of the National Drought Mitigation Center Drought Monitoring & Planning Tools

11:00 a.m.—Overview of the VegDRI tool

11:20 a.m.—First impressions of the tool and its features/ease of use (*open discussion*)

12:00 p.m.—Break and working lunch (provided)

12:30 p.m.—Overview and discussion of the potential additional features to be added to VegDRI

1:00 p.m.— Overview and discussion of the use and potential of VegDRI for management decisions

1:15 p.m.— Discussion of the accuracy of VegDRI and recruitment of “ground-truthers”

1:30 p.m.—Final comments & adjourn

National Drought Mitigation Center Drought Monitoring and Planning Tools

- **VegDRI:** Using satellite information to map spatial patterns of drought impacts on current vegetation, the VegDRI (Vegetation Drought Response Index) tool allows producers to monitor vegetation stress at a regional, state, county or sub-county level.
http://drought.unl.edu/vegdiri/VegDRI_Main.htm
 - **VegOUT** (the Vegetation Outlook), is a highly experimental forecasting that incorporates oceanic information into satellite data to provide outlooks into the expected level of vegetation stress at 2, 4, and 6-week intervals.
<http://drought.unl.edu/vegdiri/experimental.htm>
- **Drought Impact Reporter:** The Drought Impact Reporter is an interactive catalogue of drought-related impacts and reports from the media and from users of the tool. The DIR displays impacts on both a categorical and geographic basis and encourages users of the tool to submit information about drought conditions in their area. The goal of the DIR is to assemble both a real time and historic archive of drought impacts to assist individuals, communities, and policy and decision makers with assessing drought impacts across the country. It is currently being enhanced in both look and function. <http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/>
- **Drought Monitor Decision Support System/Drought Atlas:** The Drought Monitor Decision Support System (DMDSS) and the Drought Atlas are both web based tools that allow users to view current and historic information related to drought (precipitation, streamflow, drought category) on a more localized area. The DMDSS enhances the current Drought Monitor to allow users to view drought classification and severity on a local, regional, and state level. The Drought Atlas will combine data from a variety of sources to present a localized historic view of drought.
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Computer Science Department

The National Drought Mitigation Center is also collaborating with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Computer Science and Engineering Department. The NDMC frequently collaborates with others through providing our monitoring data and through the development of new tools such as Greenleaf.

- **Greenleaf--Information Technology in Agricultural Decision Support**
Greenleaf is an integrated information portal with climate related data, information and resources that are able to be identified and viewed by individual weather station. <http://greenleaf.unl.edu>

