



Would you like to be a part of the development of *risk management tools* that:

- **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 conditions and experiences to federal and state decision-makers, claims adjusters and others**
- **Can help track market conditions**

The tools include:

- **VegDRI & VegOUT:** VegDRI is a tool that uses satellite information to map spatial patterns of drought stress on current vegetation to allow producers to monitor vegetation stress at a regional, state, county or sub-county level. http://drought.unl.edu/vegdiri/VegDRI_Main.htm. VegOUT is a highly experimental forecasting tool that incorporates oceanic information into satellite data to provide outlooks into the expected level of vegetation stress at 2, 4, and 6-week intervals.
- **Drought Impact Reporter:** The Drought Impact Reporter displays drought impacts on both a categorical and geographic basis and encourages users of the tool to submit information about drought conditions in their area. <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 to be better able to plan for drought. <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>
- **The GreenLeaf Project--Information Technology in Agricultural Decision Support**
Greenleaf is an integrated information system with climate and drought related data, information and resources that allow users access data at national, regional, or local levels to enable decision support. <http://greenleaf.unl.edu>

The National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Computer Science and Engineering Department are partnering with the United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (RMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-National Weather Service to sponsor a **workshop on drought management tools**.

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Location: Eastern Washington University Tawanka Commons Building, Tawanka Room 215 B/C Cheney, WA

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 Cheney.

Space is limited so please register on-line at:

<http://drought.unl.edu/registration/wa2008/waregistration2008.html> or contact Nicole Wall (NDMC) at 402-472-6776 or nwall2@unl.edu or Royce Fontenot (NWS) at 509-244-0110 (x228) to RSVP or with questions.

Tentative Agenda follows on next page



Tentative Agenda

- 8:45 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks and Introductions**
Brian Wardlow, Program Area Leader, National Drought Mitigation Center
Royce Fontenot, National Weather Service--Spokane
Dave Paul, USDA Risk Management Agency--Spokane
- 9:15 a.m. National Drought Mitigation Center Overview**
Brian Wardlow, National Drought Mitigation Center
- 9:45 a.m. Drought Update and Climate Services Overview**
Royce Fontenot, National Weather Service, Spokane
- 10:15 a.m. Break**
- 10:30 a.m. The Drought Impact Reporter: Putting a Face on Drought**
Melissa Widhalm, Climatologist, National Drought Mitigation Center
- 11:30 a.m. The Impact of Direct Seed on Moisture Savings and Input Costs**
Rich Baden, Executive Director, Spokane Conservation District
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch provided**
- 1:00 p.m. The GreenLeaf Project: "Taking a Google Approach to Agriculture Decision Support"** Ian Cottingham, UNL, Computer Science and Engineering Department
- 2:00 p.m. Break**
- 2:15 p.m. Developing a Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI): Monitoring Vegetation Stress from a Local to National Scale**
Brian Wardlow, Program Area Leader, National Drought Mitigation Center
- 3:15 p.m. VegOut Introduction**
Tsegaye Tadesse, Climatologist, National Drought Mitigation Center
- 3:30 p.m. Topic: Irrigation Scheduling Application**, Charles Hillyer, Systems Analyst, Oregon State University
- 4:00 p.m. Open Discussion/Final Comments/Adjourn**