



The National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (RMA) and the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition are sponsoring a workshop to discuss two new drought-related tools being developed. First, a brief overview of a project to create a Drought Planning Guide for Livestock and Forage Producers will be presented, followed by a more in-depth discussion on the Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI).

FEATURED NATIONAL DROUGHT MITIGATION TOOLS:

- **Drought Planning Guide for Livestock and Forage Producers:** the web-based guide being developed outlines strategies for developing drought-resilient operations, and a planning process that individuals can use for creating their own drought plan.
- **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>

LOCATION: Buffalo County Extension Building, 1400 E. 34th St., Kearney, NE (Fairgrounds)

DATE: August 10, 2009 (*Tentative agenda can be found on next page...*)

RSVP: Marcy Hunter (402) 465-4304 or marcy@nebraskagrazinglands.org by **August 5th**, to reserve your spot.

Questions about the Workshop?

Contact Nicole Wall (NDMC) at 402-472-6776 or nwall2@unl.edu or Marcy Hunter (402) 465-4304 or marcy@nebraskagrazinglands.org with questions.

Pre-Workshop Invitation to Visit the VegDRI Website:

We invite you to visit the VegDRI website (http://www.drought.unl.edu/vegdiri/VegDRI_Main.htm) prior to the workshop and explore the maps and other information presented on the site. We are particularly interested in the usefulness of VegDRI and the products that are currently available, the ease of using and navigating through the website, and particular applications for VegDRI and possible improvements and/additions to the website. These topics will be discussed at the workshop. Feedback and suggestions from potential users of the VegDRI are critical for improving the VegDRI products and information that is delivered to the general public for decision making.

Tentative Agenda:

1:00 p.m.	Opening Remarks and Introductions (Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition)
1:15 p.m.	Overview of the National Drought Mitigation Center (Cody Knutson)
1:30 p.m.	A Drought Planning Guide for Livestock and Forage Producers (Cody Knutson)
2:00 p.m.	VegDRI Overview (Brian Wardlow)
2:30 p.m.	First impressions of the VegDRI tool, product and information needs, and possible uses/applications. (Brian Wardlow)
3:00 p.m.	Break and VegDRI map time series.
3:10 pm	Assessment of VegDRI for Nebraska for 2008 and discussion of potential applications of VegDRI in Nebraska for Decision Making and Wrap-Up (Brian Wardlow and Nicole Wall)
3:40 p.m.	Introduction of VegOut
4:00-4:15 p.m.	Wrap-Up and Adjourn
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition Board Meeting

OTHER NDMC DROUGHT TOOLS:

- **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>

See next page for additional Drought Tools...

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 ***The Greenleaf Project***.

- **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>
- **Real-Time Groundwater Level Monitoring Network**
This project aims to develop a real-time groundwater-level monitoring network in Nebraska to provide fast and reliable data that will support agricultural decision-makers and other groundwater users to better plan for, recognize, deal with, and document multiple-year droughts.
<http://snr5.unl.edu/realtimewater/Navigation/introduction.asp>