



The National Drought Mitigation Center is partnering with the United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (RMA) and the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) to sponsor a workshop on the Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) and the more experimental product, Vegetation Outlook (VegOut). 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*

FEATURED NATIONAL DROUGHT MITIGATION 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>

LOCATION: HARRIS RANCH, COALINGA, CALIFORNIA

<http://www.harrisranch.com/index2.php>

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2009 (*Tentative agenda can be found on next page...*)

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 Coalinga.

Space is limited so please register on-line at:

<http://drought.unl.edu/registration/CA2009/caregistration2009.html> or contact Nicole Wall (NDMC) at 402-472-6776 or nwall2@unl.edu or Melvin George (530) 752-1720 or mrgeorge@ucdavis.edu to RSVP or 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:

- 9:30 a.m. **Registration with Continental Breakfast**
- 10:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks and Introductions (Bob Smith, USDA RMA Davis and Melvin George)**
- 10:20 a.m. **Overview of the National Drought Mitigation Center Drought Monitoring & Planning Tools (Cody Knutson & Brian Wardlow)**
- 10:40 a.m. **First impressions of the VegDRI tool, product and information needs, and possible uses/applications.**
- 12:00 p.m. **Break and working lunch (provided), VegDRI map time series, Assessment of VegDRI for California for 2008**
- 1:00 p.m. **Discussion of potential applications of VegDRI in California for Decision Making and Wrap-Up**
- 1:45 p.m. **Introduction of VegOut**
- 2:45 p.m. **An Overview of the Ranch Plan (Cody Knutson, NDMC)**
- 3:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

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>

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>