

Winter Season Outlook and Impacts Forum for Agriculture in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

Citrus Center
312 N International Blvd
Weslaco, TX 78599

December 7, 2016

8:30-9:30 **Registration (coffee and rolls provided)**

9:30 **Welcome and introductions**

Cate Simpson, Texas A&M Kingsville
Mindy Conyers, Texas Water Development Board
Chad McNutt, National Integrated Drought Information System
David Brown, USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub

Workshop purpose and overview

Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)

Outlook Forum

Moderator: Brian Fuchs, NDMC

10:00 **Current and recent weather conditions in the Lower Valley**

Barry Goldsmith, NWS Brownsville

10:20 **Weather and climate extremes in the Lower Valley**

John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist

10:40 **Break**

11:00 **Challenges of seasonal forecasting: El Nino, La Nina, and La Nada**

Mike Halpert, NWS Climate Prediction Center

11:20 **2016-2017 Winter Outlook**

Victor Murphy, NWS Southern Region Headquarters

11:40 **Open Discussion**

Lunch (provided)

Impacts Forum

Moderator: Brian Fuchs, NDMC

- 1:00 **Drought early warning and preparedness in the Southern Plains**
Chad McNutt, NIDIS
Brian Fuchs, NDMC
- 1:30 **Assessing weather and climate extremes: local and regional tools and resources**
Leah Kos, SCIPP
- 1:50 **Drought and Remote Sensing Tools**
Tsegaye Tadesse, NDMC
- 2:10 **Survey**
NDMC
- 2:20 **Break**
- 2:40 **New and Improved Impacts Monitoring: The TexMesonet**
Andy Weinberg, TWDB
- 3:00 **Agricultural Water Conservation Grants: Current Investments and Future Opportunities**
Mindy Conyers, TWDB
- 3:20 **Open Discussion**
- 3:50 **Information needs and priorities: Setting the stage for a follow-up workshop**
Brian Fuchs, NDMC
- 4:00 **Adjourn**