



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 University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources (ANR) to sponsor a **workshop on drought management tools**.

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2009
Location: Woodland, CA
HEIDRICK AG HISTORY CENTER (<http://www.aghistory.org/cgi-bin/default.asp>)

Rolls and coffee will be served in the morning and lunch is provided.

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.

Tentative Agenda (DRAFT)

**Thursday, February 26, 2009 Heidrick Ag History Center
Woodland, California**

- 8:15 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
Bob Smith, USDA Risk Management Agency
Melvin George, UC-Davis
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center
- 9:20 a.m. **“Measuring Up-Comparing California’s Current Drought to Past Drought”**
Michael Anderson, California State Climatologist
- 9:40 a.m. **“An Overview of Current Meteorologic and Hydrologic Conditions in California and What’s in Store”**
Cindy Palmer, National Weather Service
- 10:00 a.m. **USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Drought Declaration Process in California-**
Larry Plumb, USDA FSA
- 10:20 a.m. **Break**
- 10:40 a.m. **Building a New Drought Monitor/Decision Support System (DM/DSS): “Putting it All Together”**
Mark Svoboda, Climatologist, National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 11:20 a.m. **Developing a Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI): “Monitoring Vegetation Stress from a Local to National Scale”**
Brian Wardlow, Remote Sensing Specialist, National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch (provided by RMA and the NDMC)**
- 1:00 p.m. **Drought Impact Reporter: “Putting a Face on Drought”**
Melissa Widhalm, National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 1:40 p.m. **GreenLeaf: “Taking a Google Approach to Agricultural Decision Support”**
Ian Cottingham, Software Architect, Laboratory for Advanced Research Computing, Computer Science and Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL CSE)
- 2:20 p.m. **Drought Tools Wrap-Up Discussion**
- 2:50 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Needs Assessment-
Moderators: Robin Webb, Kelly Redmond, Mark Svoboda
- 4:15 p.m. **Final Thoughts and Adjourn**