



Cattle Producer's Handbook

Drought and Other Natural Disasters Section

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Drought and Climate Related Web Sites

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The internet provides timely climate information for local, statewide, regional, national, and international sites. This fact sheet identifies the most important climate and drought related web sites and provides short descriptions for them. Additionally, links to drought sites are provided for specific interests. It is anticipated that these sites will benefit livestock producers facing, enduring, or recovering from drought conditions. The sites have information that can be used to make day-to-day strategic decisions.

National Drought Mitigation Center

Web site: <http://drought.unl.edu/>

The National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) helps people and organizations reduce the impacts of drought through preparation and risk management rather than crisis management. This site describes drought and gives strategies for monitoring, planning and risk management. The site includes 10 fact sheets.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Web site: <http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html>

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is home to a wealth of information on climate and drought. It monitors regional and global climates that can be an indicator for potential drought areas. NOAA provides the following services: Climate Prediction Center (forecasts the impacts of short-term weather variability), The Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) and Crop Moisture Index (CMI) (indices of the relative dryness or wetness effecting water sensitive economies), Current Crop Moisture Index Map, Experimental Drought Indicator Blends, Top Soil Moisture Maps, Soil Moisture Monitoring, Drought Assessment, Drought Termination and Amelioration, and Climate Data.

National Water and Climate Center

Web site: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/>

The National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) is a water supply and precipitation web site hosted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The site has information on water supply forecasts, reservoir storage, SCAN Data Networks, SNOWTEL, snow course, and other climate products.

Rangeview.net

Web site: <http://rangeview.arizona.edu/>

RangeView, "Geospatial Tools for Natural Resource Management," includes interactive tools that provide assistance in understanding vegetation dynamics across large areas and over time. These tools incorporate satellite imagery and digital maps in ways that complement traditional rangeland management tools, such as field-based inventory and monitoring techniques. The site offers documentation and a tutorial to aid new users in their efforts to interpret geospatial information and understand the underlying technology. It also reports the status of research on cattle-wildlife-forage interactions that are based on the spatial and temporal analysis of vegetation dynamics.

Western Region Climate Center

Web site: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/>

The Western Region Climate Center (WRCC) is home to the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI). SPI measures precipitation and can provide early warning signs of an oncoming drought.

Other Links

Arizona: <http://ag.arizona.edu/extension/drought/>

California Drought Preparedness:

<http://watersupplyconditions.water.ca.gov/>