



Enhancing climate literacy

Montana recently experienced three consecutive years of drought, as well as severe flooding in the Greater Yellowstone Area. Impacts to working lands have included loss of property and infrastructure, wildfire damage, depleted stock water, and grasshopper infestation. In response, the Northern Plains Climate Hub organized a 2-day [AgroClimate Workshop](#) in partnership with NRCS, Montana State University Extension, Intertribal Agriculture Council, and Montana Association of Conservation Districts. The event convened 90 agricultural and forestry professionals, including 40 NRCS staff, who increased their knowledge of weather and climate resources, as well as climate-smart practices. Participant confidence grew in using and effectively communicating about climate, climate change, and practices or resources to inform working-land management.



Climate-smart Midwest

The Midwest Climate Hub is working with The Ohio State University and additional Midwest university and Extension partners to establish [Climate-Ready Midwest](#). This project was funded by USDA-NIFA to bolster Extension-Hub connections and develop a Climate Hub-Extension framework. The project team has conducted interviews of Extension participants, which has yielded novel information about Extension specialists' views of climate change, needs for integrating climate science into their existing programs, and an understanding of the partnerships that may facilitate these integrations in the future. These participants will in turn attend the Theories of Change workshop later this year, for the purpose of implementing an Extension needs assessment and co-developing series of climate-smart practices for agriculture across the Midwest.

Grazing management

Southwestern ranchers face a future climate with warmer temperatures, changed precipitation patterns, and in some areas, declining rangeland forage production. Frequent droughts and spatially variable precipitation are also typical of the region. Virtual fencing and remotely monitoring water troughs, rain gauges, and cattle locations, can help producers adapt by providing more flexibility in grazing management and vital information about remote pastures. However, there is limited information in circulation about these technologies. The extension team of the [Sustainable Southwest Beef Project](#), led by the Southwest Climate Hub, have developed [fact sheets](#) (in English and Spanish), [a short video](#), and [a slide deck](#) to share information from the project's research into Precision Ranching Technologies and Criollo cattle.

Southern Plains Perspective

Sharing information with people can be more effective when we use a variety of media. The Southern Plains Climate Hub produces content in various formats, such as podcast and YouTube videos. Their blog, [Southern Plains Perspective](#), covers topics like climate smart agriculture (cover crops, soil health, grazing research), extreme weather patterns, cost share programs, sorghum, droughts and wildfire.



USDA Climate Hubs Mission Area Highlights

Farm Production, and Conservation

FY23 Q2



Looking ahead

New projects, collaborations and upcoming meetings

- In June 2023 we celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the Secretary of Agriculture's announcement of the establishment of the Climate Hubs Program.
- In recent years, Caribbean land managers have grappled with a variety of compounding, climate-related challenges from severe drought to extreme precipitation and hurricanes. The USDA Caribbean Climate Hub launched a series of [OneUSDA workshops](#) where USDA agencies, Extension and Conservation Districts promote climate-related management practices and assistances to farmers and landowners. Increased climate literacy, adaptation and mitigation practices and assistances, and connections made with USDA agencies and other entities among forest landowners and farmers. Looking forward, the next Spanish language workshop is on June 9.
- [The International Climate Hub](#) joins USDA Regional Climate Hubs to share research, tools, collaborative efforts, and best practices on a global scale to improve the world's ability to adapt to climate change and mitigate its impacts.
- NIFA announced a \$9M investment in the 2022 awardees for the [Extension, Education and USDA Climate Hubs Partnerships](#). Seven of the regional hubs will partner with six projects led by American Farmland Trust, Clemson University, the Migrant Clinicians Network, Purdue University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and Washington State University.

By the numbers

The USDA Climate Hubs

- 10 Regional Directors
- 20 Regional Co Leads
- 10 Regional Coordinators
- 1 Regional Tribal Coordinator
- 3 agency liaisons
- 25 research and other staff
- 1 National Coordinator
- 1 National Lead

Engagements

In QR2, the Hubs hosted, participated in, or led

- 85 workshops and webinars
- 14,213 stakeholders engaged
- 54 presentations

Publications

The Hubs published 75 products in the second quarter, including

- 14 peer reviewed publications
- 61 white papers or grey literature

Website and social media

- 107,779 website users
- 192,736 pageviews
- 21,498 impressions on Twitter

USDA Climate Hubs

Building climate resilience and supporting equity by co-developing research, tools, outreach, and engagement with natural resource and agricultural managers.

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