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Selected Accomplishments in FY20 Q3

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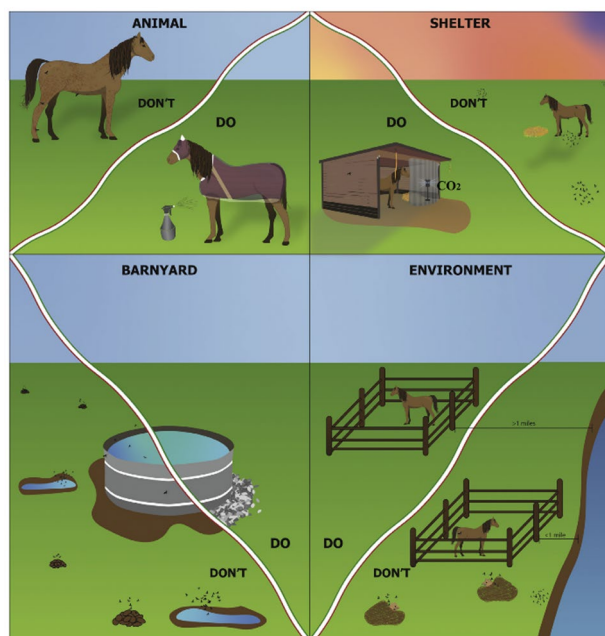


Review Article

Management Strategies for Reducing the Risk of Equines Contracting Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) in the Western United States



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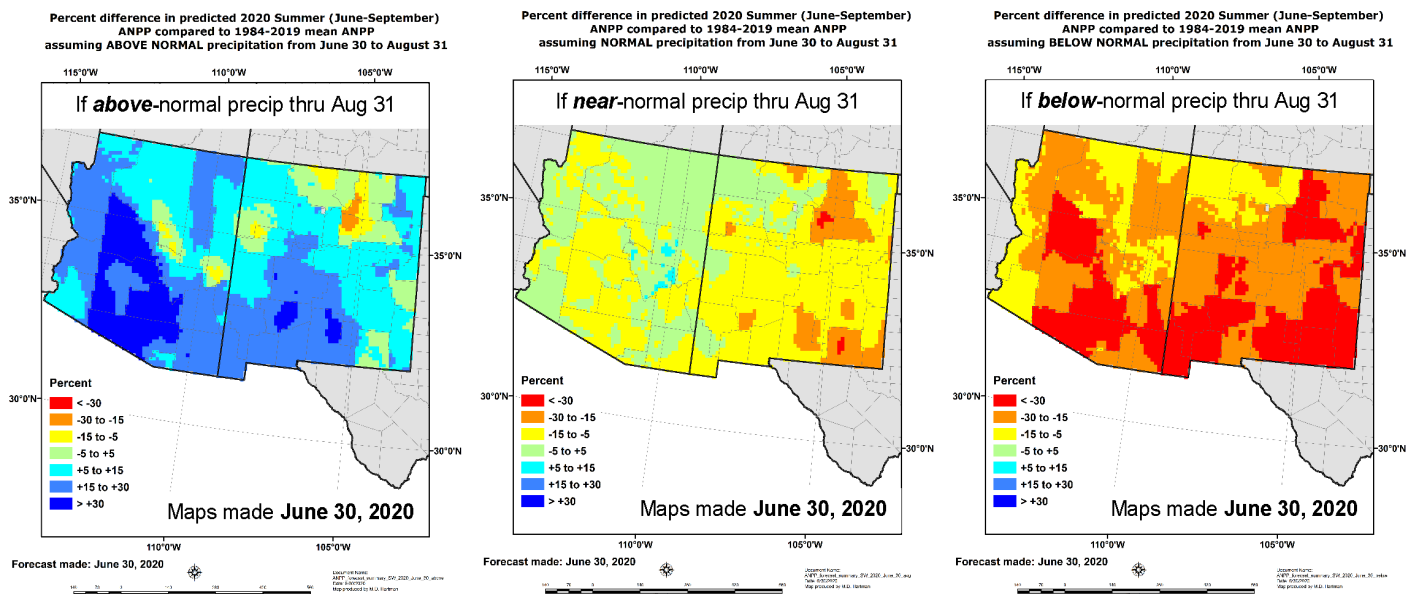
The **Northern Plains Climate Hub** led a new article in the *Journal of Equine Veterinary Science* about vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV). This insect-borne disease causes painful lesions in equine, cattle, and other hooved animals. VSV affected a record-number of animals in 2019 and is active again this year in several western states. The article **makes technical information** about insect vectors of VSV **more accessible** to equine veterinarians and owners. It **provides practical, science-based** management tips for **reducing the risk** to equines of VSV. The article is an output of the **VSV Grand Challenge** project, which involves a multidisciplinary team of scientists from **ARS** (in Las Cruces, Plum Island, Fort Collins, and Manhattan), **APHIS** (in Fort Collins), and several **university** partners.

Fig. Proactive management strategies (labeled “DO”) at the animal, shelter, barnyard/premises, and environment/neighborhood level that should help reduce pressure on equines from biting insects known to transmit vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV). Each “DO” is contrasted against a “DON’T,” to show poorly managed conditions that may increase the risk of equines contracting VSV [graphic art by Victoria Rhodes].

Grass-Cast is a popular tool among **grassland managers** and **ranchers** for forecasting how many pounds per acre of rangeland vegetation is expected to grow during the upcoming growing season. The **Northern Plains and Southwest Climate Hubs** coordinate a large team from multiple Federal departments, USDA agencies, and academic institutions, who **expanded** Grass-Cast from the **Great Plains** to the **Southwest** in spring 2020. The Grass-Cast website has been **accessed by ~2,200 users** thus far during 2020. Additionally, the team has contributed to 5 press releases, 5 newspaper articles, and 5 virtual workshops/meetings. The virtual workshops reached 200+ stakeholders. Visit <https://grasscast.unl.edu> for more!

% Change in Grassland Production (lbs/ac) this Summer, Compared to an Area's 36-yr Average

For the 3 maps below: "If precipitation between now & Aug 31st is **above** (left map), **near** (middle), or **below** (right) normal, grassland production in your grid-cell (in lbs/ac on Sept 30th) will be ___% more or less than its 36-year average."



FUNDED BY:



Find current maps at: <https://grasscast.unl.edu>

See NOAA outlooks at: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>

For additional drought info & resources: <http://drought.unl.edu/>

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With **drought** emerging in **Wyoming**, the Northern Plains **Climate Hub Coordinator**, Windy Kelley, **convened** a **team** of federal, tribal, and state agencies with climate, weather, water, and agricultural expertise to **discuss** current conditions and impacts. The 20-member team will meet regularly to **co-design** an inclusive, efficient, and sustainable **process** for **reporting** weekly to the **U.S. Drought Monitor**.

