Every spring, ranchers face the same difficult challenge—trying to anticipate how much grass might grow for livestock to graze during the upcoming season. Beginning in 2017, an innovative Grassland Productivity Forecast known as “Grass-Cast” has helped producers in the Great Plains and Southwest reduce this economically important source of uncertainty.

Now, the science and data underlying Grass-Cast for the Northern Plains are described in a new article in the peer-reviewed journal, ECOSPHERE.

The open-access article is freely available at https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.3280.

A team of scientists from two countries, three universities, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service, including the Northern Plains Climate Hub, wrote the article.
More and more **agricultural producers** are adopting **innovative management practices** to bolster their operations’ **resilience to weather and climate risks**.

The Northern Plains Climate Hub, in partnership with Extension and agricultural producers in the region, have developed an online, interactive StoryMap, “Learning From Your Neighbor: Climate Resiliency in Agriculture.”

Through this immersive website, **producers share their stories** about the **benefits, challenges, and valuable lessons learned** while adopting **weather-resilient and climate-smart practices**!

The state of **Colorado** experienced widespread drought during 2020, with the U.S. Drought Monitor showing **100% of the state** experiencing abnormally dry to exceptional **drought (D0-D4)** during early August and continuing into 2021.

Roughly **77% of the state** was experiencing **extreme or exceptional drought (D3-D4)** in mid-October, when the state’s **second largest wildfire on record**, the East Troublesome Fire, began.

With this backdrop of Colorado’s intense wildfires and on-going drought, the **Colorado Association of Conservation Districts** invited the Northern Plains Climate Hub to give a presentation on **“Agricultural Climate Resilience”** during their 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting. [https://www.coloradoacd.org/annual-meeting.html](https://www.coloradoacd.org/annual-meeting.html)