Grass-Cast:
Grassland Productivity Forecast

USDA NORTHERN PLAINS, SOUTHERN PLAINS, AND SOUTHWEST CLIMATE HUBS

WHY

Each spring, ranchers face the challenge of estimating how much grass will grow for their livestock to graze during the upcoming summer. Grass-Cast helps ranchers reduce economic uncertainty about important economic decisions by forecasting seasonal grassland productivity.

WHAT

Grass-Cast helps ranchers anticipate whether forage production (pounds per acre) is likely to be above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal in the upcoming growing season. Grass-Cast is first released in the spring and updated every two weeks using newly observed weather data. It becomes more accurate as the growing season unfolds, so is most helpful when consulted regularly.
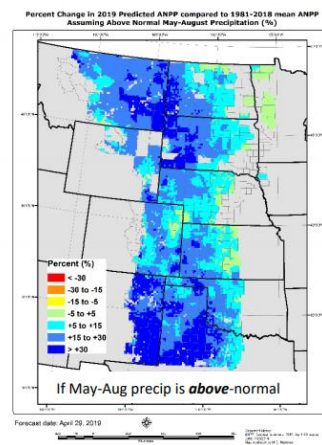
BENEFITS

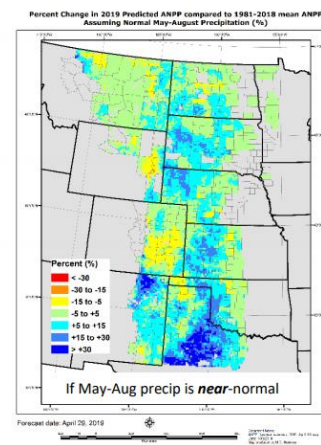Reliable: based on 36 years of historical data

Available: for seasonal planning of forage supply
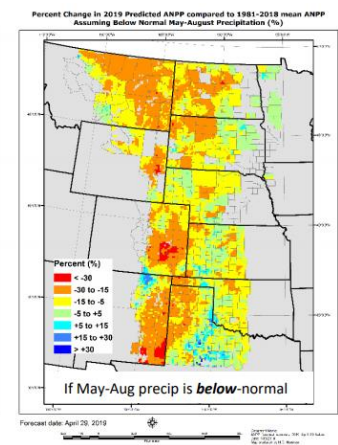
Useful: reaching 2,500 users per year

GRASS-CAST MAPS

Above-normal rainfall scenario.

Near-normal rainfall scenario.

Below-normal rainfall scenario.

PARTNERS

USDA | NDMC UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA | (Colorado State) | A (Arizona) | N (Nebraska)