

Southeast Climate Hub

Network of Partners Annual Meeting Notes

May 14, 2024

Presentation Highlights

- Grey Literature
 - Forest Owner Carbon and Climate Education (FOCCE) articles (11) and case studies (2) in partnership with Penn State University Extension
 - Emerging Forest Threats Fact Sheets for Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia
 - Fact Sheets for Silvopasture and Soil Salinity and Salinization
- 5th National Climate Assessment – Steve McNulty served as one of the authors.
- McNulty, Steven, Editor: *Future Forests: Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change*. Elsevier, 2024.
- SE Climate Hub's strategy for Reducing Drought Risk in the Southeast - through collaboration with NOAA/NIDIS, development of drought preparation and recovery guides, workshops, and drought impact reporting.
- Updated Silvics of North America project – true focus on North America, digital platform, updated range maps & projections, over 80 chapters in preparation
- Fire Weather Intelligence Portal in partnership with NC State Climate Office – Adding a smoke dispersal component and Region 8 fire manager focused training.
- Regional-scale southern pine beetle model in partnership with Clemson University
- The Hub will continue efforts to provide workshops and outreach to Extension, producers, educators, technical service providers, and the public.
- The Hub will continue to support NFS Region 8 through TACCIMO, Ecoregion factsheets, and forest plan revisions.
- NRCS Climate Mitigation Outreach and Education – 5-year project
- Piedmont Silvopasture project
- Continuing projects funded through NIFA AFRI

Participant Discussion Notes

- Participants spoke positively about the Hub and its areas of focus. Drought-related projects were an important topic. Participants expressed that drought publications and resources will be useful for farmers.
- When developing drought resources there is the challenge of how to treat irrigated vs. non-irrigated land. Farmers must consider the costs & benefits of installing an irrigation system.
- In many universities in the southeast there is increased emphasis on drought research. Example of Auburn University hiring for a new Cooperative Extension position that is focused on drought. By identifying people who specialize in irrigation and drought research at universities, we can start to connect those people and hopefully increase collaboration that will advance the science. The Hub could play a vital role in bringing people together.
- In preparing drought resources, we discussed the importance of gathering information from a wide range of stakeholders (Extension, university researchers, industry, commodity groups). Example of Cotton Inc.

- Discussed the challenge of considering and providing guidance on so many different commodities, crop management methods, irrigation systems, and across a variety of regions and geographies. There is a need to prioritize and organize these categories.
- Encourage the Network of Partners members to help us get more connected to experts throughout the southeast. Consider how they can help with the drought guides and fill in where we have missing gaps.
- Discussed how the Hub can work with industry on projects. Industry can be a good partner and they have many useful resources but there are limitations in the way that we can share and work together. As a federal agency, the things we produce are in the public domain but it's not the same for industry.
- Discussed future trends and opportunities to partner with the Hub. Example in Florida of the need for adaptation in planting crops and times of planting due to increased heat stress in addition to drought. Also discussed the need for more research and discussion on the increased frequency of extreme weather events. Example of grad student research on the need to study extreme weather events together and not in isolation.

To-dos and Follow-Up

- Follow up about Auburn Water Resources drought specialist and other key stakeholders. Also, reach out about contact information for grad student (Midwest Climate Hub) working on climate change and extreme weather events.
- Let us know if you are interested in collaborating on our workshops and webinars and we will set up a meeting to discuss further.
- Include us on your internal web pages and invite us to stakeholder and/or internal meetings.