

Northeast Drought Assessment and Building Drought Early Warning Capacity

Monday, February 27, 2017

9:00am - 3:30pm

ILR Conference Center, Room 423, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

and

Cornell Cooperative Extension, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

9:00am - 9:30am

Continental Breakfast

9:30am - 9:35am

Welcoming Remarks

9:35am - 10:15am

Drought Conditions and What's Ahead for Drought in 2017

- NRCC: How did we get here?
- National Weather Service: Where are we now? Looking Forward
 - Jim Brewster, BGM Hydrologist
- USGS: Groundwater, Surface water conditions
 - Bill Coon

10:15am - 11:30am

Drought Information Resources: Current Tools and Possibilities

- Drought Monitor overview
 - Deb Bathke, National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)
- Longer Range forecast Products: 8-14 day, 3-4 week, one month, seasonal
 - Dan Collins, CPC
- Overview of Ag impacts
 - Shannan Sweet, Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future
- Decision processes in dealing with drought impacts
 - Mike Holt, DEC
- Hydrologist on potential models for forecasting groundwater/streamflow in the Northeast
 - Todd Walter, NYS Water Resources Institute

11:30am - 11:45am

Break

11:45am

Critical elements of a Drought Early Warning System, Drought Preparedness, and Drought Resilience

- What is NIDIS?
- Demonstration: What an effective Drought Early Warning System looks like
- Working Lunch served at 12:00pm

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Break-Out Group Discussions

- What was the biggest information gap you experienced during the 2016 drought? Results of the registration page question.
 - Elizabeth Ossowski, NIDIS
- Questions to discuss:
 - What drought impacts did you experience and what decisions did you have to make?
 - What did you need to have been better prepared?
 - How much time do you need to make your decisions? (create timeline for Drought Early Warning decision-making)
 - Weeks, months
 - Short-term vs long term
 - Frequency of droughts
 - What sources do you get your drought information from?
 - What is the best way to get drought information to you?
 - How often do you need updates on current conditions?
 - Are there tools/products that would be helpful in making your decisions?
- Determine next steps, recommendations

2:00pm - 2:30pm

**Report out from Break-Out Groups, Collect Recommendations
Synthesize Break Outs**

- Lightning Round of top bullets
- Gap in Partners and Outreach
- Collection of Impacts, Information Providers, Impact Observers (CSCs - landscapes and ecosystems), EPA (Water Quality, Infrastructure)

2:30pm - 3:15pm

Take-Away Open Discussion: Impressions

3:30pm

Adjourn