

Grass-Cast Grassland Productivity Forecast



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Agricultural Research Service
Climate Hubs



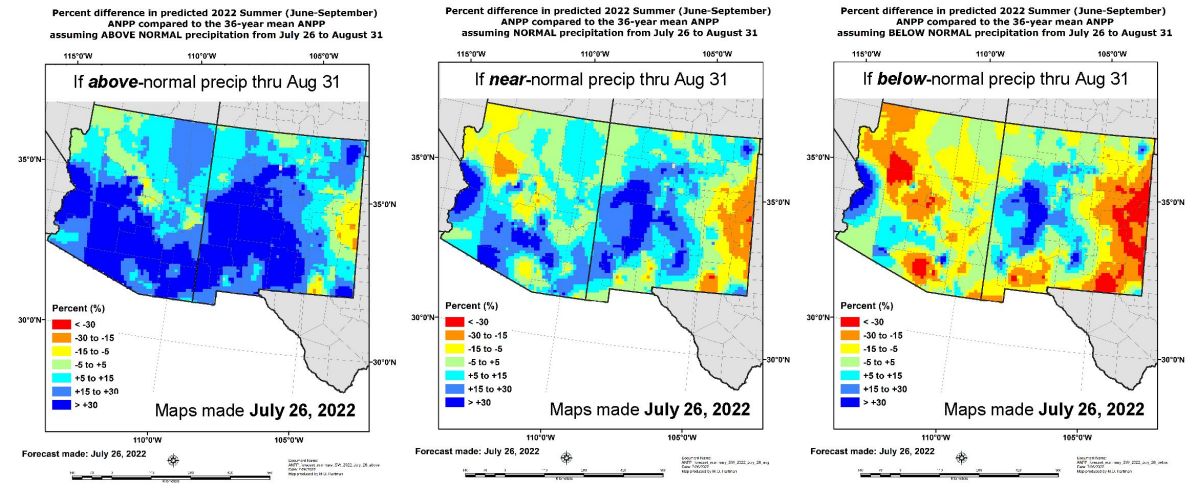
Find current maps at: <https://grasscast.unl.edu/>
See NOAA Outlooks at: <https://cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts>
For additional drought info & resources: <https://drought.unl.edu/>

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What is Grass-Cast?

- A prediction for end-of-season forage production.
- 3 Scenarios: What if, between now and the end of the growing season, my area gets...
 - Above average precipitation?
 - Near average precipitation?
 - Below average precipitation?
- 6 mile grid cells.
- Updated every 2 weeks during the growing season.

% 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."



To determine which of the above maps is more likely for your location, check the monthly precipitation outlook by visiting NOAA at <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>

FUNDED BY:
USDA United States Department of Agriculture
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How to use Grass-Cast

- Visit: <https://grasscast.unl.edu/>

Grassland Productivity Forecast

Outlook Maps Archive Historical Data FAQ Quick Links Contact Us

Outlook

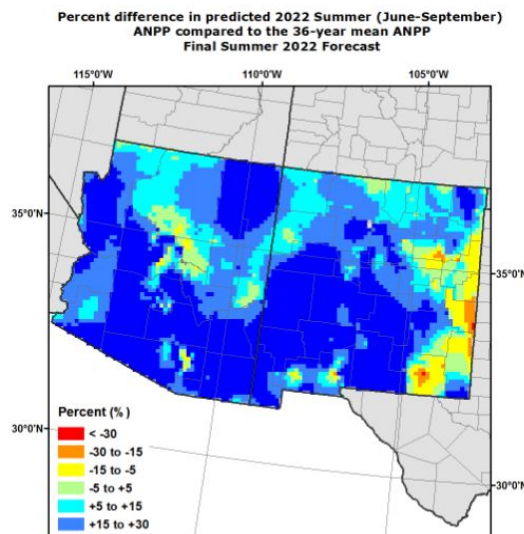
- Grass-Cast Static Maps
- Grass-Cast Zoomable Maps
- About Our Maps
- Introductory Video
- How to Read the Maps
- Grass-Cast Handout
- Science Webinars
- Acknowledgements
- Historical Productivity

Select an area:

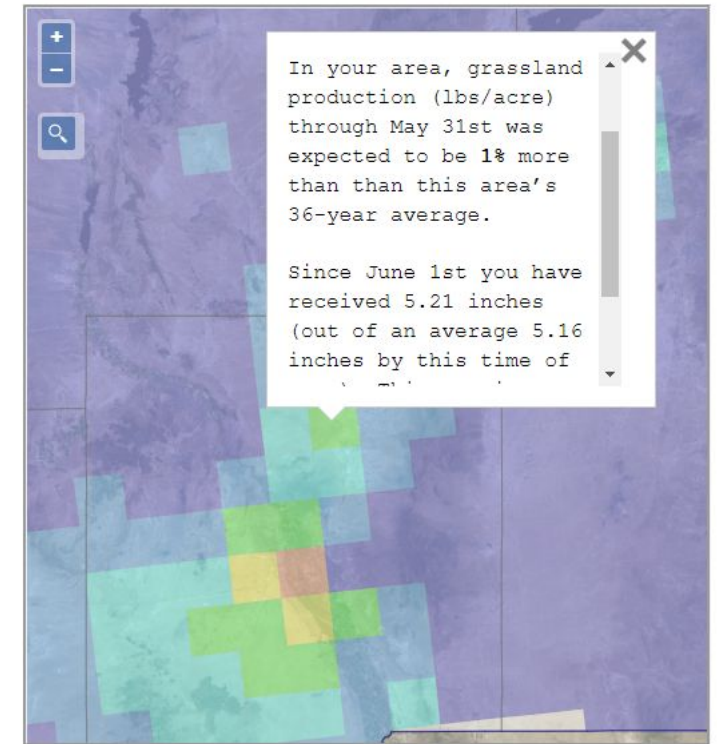
Great Plains Southwest

% Change in Grassland Production for Your Area this Summer Compared to Its 36-yr Average - Forecast

For the map below: "Given actual precipitation observed through August 31st, grassland production in your grid-cell during the SUMMER of 2022 (at lbs / ac less than its 36-year average."



% difference in predicted 2022 Summer (June-August) ANPP compared to 1986-2021 mean ANPP final map.



Forecast made: September 1, 2022

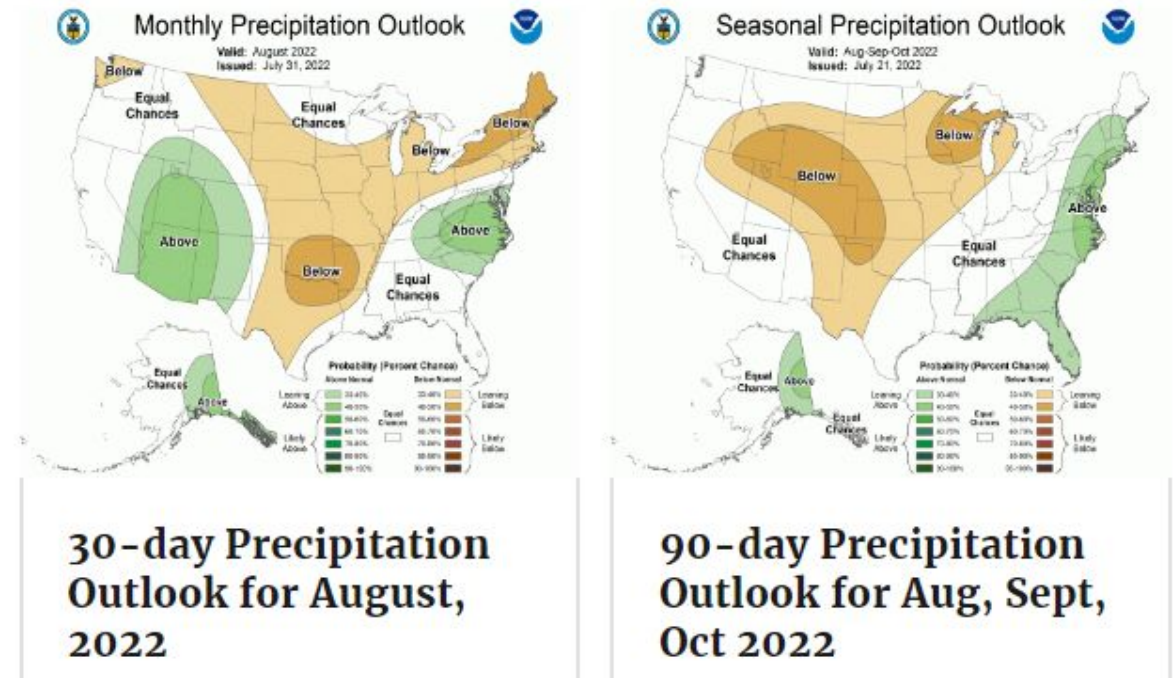


Print Maps



How to use Grass-Cast Cont.

- Look at the NOAA monthly & seasonal precipitation outlooks to determine which rainfall scenario is most likely.
- All predictions from Grass-Cast are in % of normal (long-term average) production, not lbs per acre.
- Know what your site & vegetation's potential is.



<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>



What Grass-Cast IS

- A tool to help with drought planning, scenario planning.
- Additional information to help support decision-making, to be used in combination with your own knowledge of local soils, topography, and vegetation.



What Grass-Cast IS NOT

- A substitute for boots on the ground checking your pastures.
- Grass-Cast doesn't know what kind of vegetation is on your pasture.
- A prediction of what you're going to see out there next week – all Grass-Cast predictions are for total production by the end of the growing scene.
- Grass-Cast should not be used as a sole information source or to set stocking rates.



How to find the decision support tool for you

- There are a plethora of tools out there, Grass-Cast is just one of many tools that can assist in your management plan.
- Tool finders:
 - Tools for the Beef Industry (TOBI): Searches over 550 tools related to beef production, curated from around the web.
<https://webapps.jornada.nmsu.edu/livestock/>
 - NIDIS: Drought conditions and outlooks, a compilation of relevant tools and websites, regional Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS).
<https://www.drought.gov/>
 - Southwest Drought Learning Network: Network of climate service providers and industry professionals sharing resources and information. Website:
<https://dln.swclimatehub.info/>

