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Press Conference

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PRESS CONFERENCE
November 10, 2005

*Here in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, home to the National Drought Mitigation Center, we often say we are partners with Nebraska. This wonderful three-year partnership between the USDA's Risk Management Agency, the National Drought Mitigation Center, and UNL's Department of Computer Science and Engineering to devote more than \$7 million in new federal funding to further-refine Web tools to help ag producers and others in our country monitor drought-impacts and manage its risks is of real value both for our state and our world.

*Partnerships are far-reaching, and the bringing together of vital and wide-ranging areas of expertise to produce the best possible tools shows the benefits of interdisciplinary work of value to citizens of our state, country and world. Other partners in the drought research include our High Plains Regional Climate Center, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Geological Society. This is a coming together of

experts from several places for the common good, and we look forward with high anticipation to the findings and results of this research.

*The National Agricultural Decision Support System provides a hands-on tool for farmers. This additional funding will enable researchers to expand and improve the system. The team on the project works closely with ag producers in refining the tools; producers will provide input on their decision support needs, use the tools, and offer suggestions for improvement. We're engaged with our constituents here as all good land-grant universities should be; learning from them as we research, work, and provide education for them.