

USDA Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change

USDA's Regional Hubs will deliver science-based knowledge and practical information to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners within each region of the United States to support decision-making related to climate change. These Hubs are needed to maintain and strengthen agricultural production, natural resource management, and rural economic development under increasing climate variability. The Hubs will build capacity within USDA to deliver information and guidance on technologies and risk management practices at regional and local scales.

Hub Activities

Technical Support: The Hubs will provide support to USDA agriculture and land management program delivery by providing tools and strategies for climate change response to help producers cope with challenges associated with drought, heat stress, excessive moisture, longer growing seasons, and changes in pest pressure. The Hubs will support applied research and develop partnerships.

Assessments and Regional Forecasts: The Hubs will provide periodic regional assessments of risk and vulnerability in the production sector to contribute to the National Climate Assessment, and provide accessible regional data and interpret climate change forecasts for hazard and adaptation planning.

Outreach and Education: The Hubs will provide outreach and extension to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners on science-based risk management through the land grant universities, Extension, USDA service agencies, and public/private partnerships and educate producers about the effects of climate change on agriculture and forests.

Program Coordination

Leadership: One Hub in each of seven regions (see map) will be chosen based on a competitive application process. Each Hub will be the center of a network of connected activities or services with the operational center located in a USDA facility (Agricultural Research Service, Forest Service, or Natural Resources Conservation Service) within its region. Each Hub will maintain a vibrant network of public, academic, and private sector organizations, researchers, and outreach specialists.

Partners: Partners represent land grant universities; USDA researchers, programs, and field offices; private sector companies addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation; state, local and regional governments; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Department of Interior (DOI) regional climate change experts; and non-profits providing assistance to landowners.

Coordination with Regional Activities: The NOAA RISA (Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments) Program and the DOI Climate Science Centers for fish and wildlife complement the USDA regional Hubs by providing data, findings, tools, and forecasts that USDA agencies and the Hubs could build into integrated services for the agricultural and forestry sectors.

