AgClimate.org from Tools to Outlooks: Servicing Stakeholders in the U.S.A.

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AgClimate.org is a web-based climate forecast and decision support system developed by the Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC) in partnership with the Cooperative State Extension Service. The SECC is a coalition of six universities - Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Miami, University of Georgia, Auburn University, and University of Alabama-Huntsville. AgClimate which has been operational since the beginning of 2005 provides users climate forecasts and climate-based risk management tools for selected crops, forestry, pasture, and livestock. Since its initial release, AgClimate has evolved into a system that responds better to the needs of stakeholders as a result of users’ feedback and constant interactions with extension faculty. New modules are in the process of being incorporated into the system such as the inclusion of a disease forecast system for strawberries, yield risk forecasting for additional crops such as cotton and corn, and in-season updates of derived variables of interest to agriculture such as chill accumulation and growing degree days. More recently, additional funding is also facilitating the transfer of the AgClimate concept to other states such as New Mexico and North Carolina. This paper discusses the development process, latest features, plans to transition the operation of the system to the Cooperative Extension Services, and plans for improvement and expansion of AgClimate.org.

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