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New Climate Tools Help Farmers and Advisors Make Informed Decisions

West Lafayette, Indiana – The Useful to Usable (U2U) climate initiative recently launched two new decision support tools to help farmers and agricultural advisors manage increasingly variable weather and climate conditions. Part of the U2U$_{DST}$ Suite, **AgClimate View$_{DST}$** and **Corn Growing Degree Day$_{DST}$** provide easy to use historical climate data that can help inform purchasing, marketing and activity planning throughout the growing cycle. An integrated team of university researchers, climatologists and social scientists from across the Corn Belt collaborated on the project.

"We are excited to announce the launch of our first of several decision support tools. Our social science research on the front end helped our team of climate experts, economists and agronomists create easy to use tools that make climate data accessible and useful to the agricultural community. We'd like to think we are demystifying climate data one user at a time and hope producers will use the information to make better decisions and ultimately increase yields with minimal environmental impact," said Dr. Linda Stalker Prokopy, Associate Professor of Natural Resource Social Science at Purdue and U2U Project Director.

AgClimate View$_{DST}$ provides convenient access to customized historical climate and crop yield data for the U.S. Corn Belt. Users can view graphs of monthly temperature and precipitation, plot corn and soybean yield trends, and compare climate and yields over the past 30 years.

Corn Growing Degree Day$_{DST}$ allows users to track real-time and historical GDD accumulations, assess spring and fall frost risk, and guide decisions related to planting, harvest, and seed selection. This innovative tool integrates corn development stages with weather and climate data for location-specific decision support tailored specifically to agricultural production.

Both tools are designed for agricultural advisors and producers in the North Central region of the Unites States as well as Kentucky and Tennessee. The U2U$_{DST}$ Suite can be accessed via U2U's web portal.

Useful to Usable is a USDA-funded research and extension project designed to improve the resilience and profitability of U.S. farms in the Corn Belt amid a variable

and changing climate. The project is comprised of a team of 50 faculty, staff, and students from nine North Central universities with expertise in applied climatology, crop modeling, agronomy, cyber-technology, agricultural economics, and other social sciences.

Visit us at AgClimate4u.org

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Project Contact:

Dr. Linda Stalker Prokopy
U2U Project Director
Associate Professor of Natural Resource Social Science
Purdue University
765-496-2221
lprokopy@purdue.edu

U2U Project Partners: Purdue University, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, South Dakota State University, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Wisconsin, High Plains and Midwestern NOAA Regional Climate Centers, and the National Drought Mitigation Center.

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