

**Improving Seasonal Climate Forecasts for Oklahoma Winter Wheat Farmers**

**Toni Klemm\* and Dr. Renee McPherson**

*Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability*

*South Central Climate Science Center, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK*

*toni@ou.edu*

Agriculture is one of the most weather- and climate-dependent industries. Unseasonal wet or dry climate, such as the recent droughts and rainfall in the south-central US, can lead to crop damage with severe consequences for regional and national economies. Seasonal climate forecasts, tailored for the agricultural community, could help reduce crop losses by providing skillful forecasts for the coming seasons. My proposed research uses online surveys and spatial statistics to explore ways in which tailored seasonal climate forecasts can help winter wheat producers in Oklahoma make better long-term decisions and assess whether climate model output is skillful enough to create such tailored forecast products. I see my research as a stepping stone in applied climate research towards creating operational seasonal climate forecasts and reducing crop losses for winter wheat farmers and agricultural producers in general.