

Vesicular stomatitis detected in Kinney County horses

Vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) was confirmed in horses on a Kinney County premises on June 21. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the virus as the Indiana serotype.

The horses were tested after the owner observed lesions on the horses' muzzles and contacted a veterinary practitioner. The Texas Animal Health Commission

(TAHC) has quarantined the premises, and there is no known exposure to other horses. The quarantine period for premises with suspect or confirmed VSV cases is 14 days from the onset of lesions in the last affected animal on the premises.

No other cases of VSV have been identified in the immediate area or elsewhere in the state.

VSV can cause blisters and sores in the mouth and on the tongue, muzzle, teats or hooves of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats,

llamas and a number of other animals. Lesions usually heal in two or three weeks.

Because of the contagious nature of VSV and its resemblance to other diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), animal health officials urge livestock owners and caretakers to report these symptoms to their veterinarian immediately. Most animals recover with supportive care by a veterinarian.

"Known competent vectors for transmission of VSV include

black flies, sand flies and biting midges," Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC executive director, said. "Livestock owners should implement best practices to limit livestock exposure to insects."

Some states and other countries may restrict movement of, or impose additional requirements for, susceptible animals from states having known cases of VSV.

Before moving livestock, contact the state of destination for their requirements. For export

information, contact the USDA Veterinary Services Austin office at (301) 851-3300, option 2.

"If you suspect your animal has VSV, notify your private veterinarian immediately," Schwartz said. "VSV is not highly contagious to people but it can cause flu-like illness if infected saliva gets into an open wound, eyes or mouth. People handling potentially infected animals should wear gloves for protection, and talk with a physician if they have questions.

Water Weekly

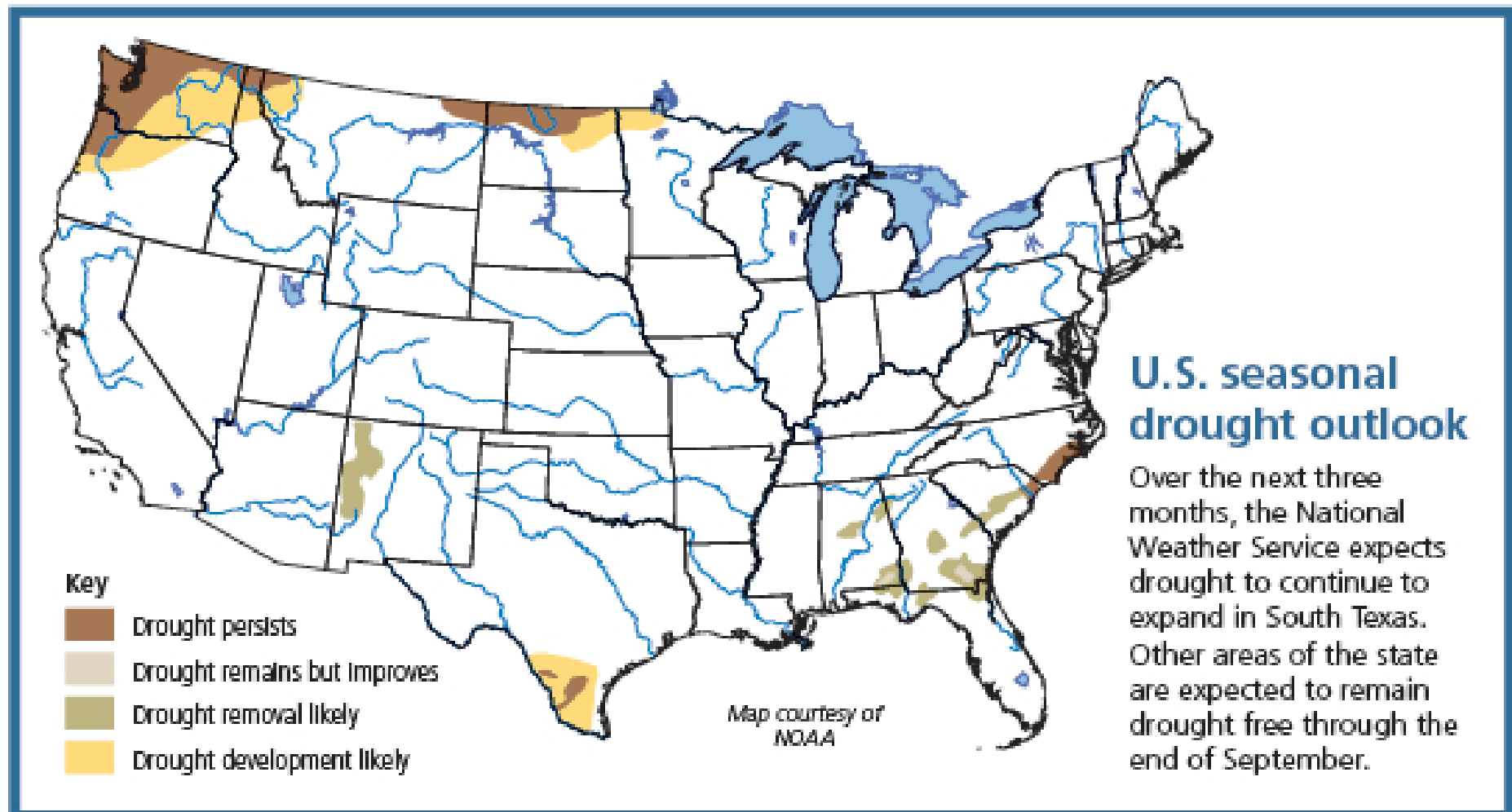
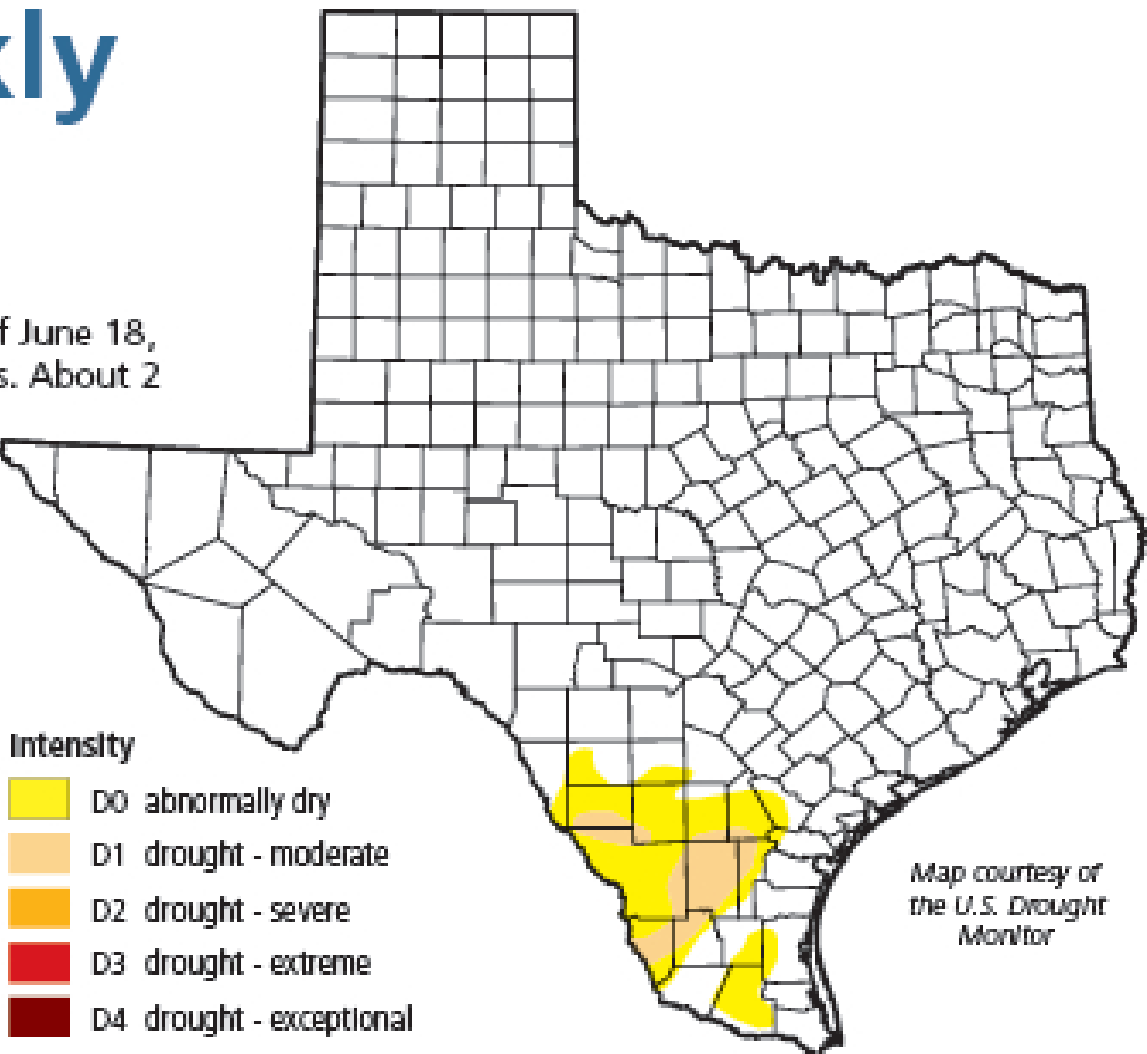
For the week of 06/24/19

Water conditions

The latest drought map, for conditions as of June 18, shows drought expanding in southern Texas. About 2 percent of the state is now impacted by drought. Another 4 percent is considered abnormally dry and susceptible to drought conditions in coming weeks.

Drought conditions

- ◆ 2% now
- ◆ 0.5% a week ago
- ◆ 10% three months ago
- ◆ 47% a year ago



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