The Utah Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations
Phase II
Table of Contents

Terms and Acronyms ............................. 2  
Overview of New AFO and CAFO Water Quality Regulations ............................. 3  
Compliance Flowchart .................................. 4  
AFO Permit-by-Rule .................................. 5  
CAFO Regulations .................................. 6  
Agricultural Storm Water Exemption ............................. 7  
Utah Strategy - Phase II .................................. 8  
Inspections and Enforcement .................................. 9  
Other Possible Regulations ................................ 10  
Mortality Composting ................................ 10  
Ground Water Quality Regulations ................................ 10  
Construction Permits ................................ 10  
Liner Requirements ................................ 11  
Ground Water Permit ................................ 11  
Nutrient Management Plans & Certified Planners ................................ 12  
Financial Assistance ................................ 13  
Contact Information ................................ 15  
Producer’s Website (for more information) ............................. 16

Terms and Acronyms

AFO: Animal Feeding Operation means a lot or facility where animals are stabled or confined, and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period; AND crops, vegetation, forage, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility. (The 45 days of confinement do not have to be consecutive days and the 12 month period may be any consecutive 12 months, not necessarily a calendar year. Partial daily confinement counts as a whole day; for example, some auctions may qualify as AFOs. The animals do not have to be the same animals confined for 45 days.)

CAFO: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation is an AFO that is any Large CAFO (based on number of animals) whether permitted or not, certain Medium AFOs that require a permit, or certain Small AFOs that require a permit.

WOS: Water of the State means all streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems, drainage systems, and all other bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial, public or private, which are contained within, flow through, or border upon this state or any portion of the state; and does not include bodies of water confined to and retained within the limits of private property, and which do not develop into or constitute a nuisance, public health hazard, or a menace to fish or wildlife. Utah Code Ann. 19-5-102(18)(a)
Overview of New AFO and CAFO Water Quality Regulations

On December 22, 2008, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implemented a new federal rule for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). This rule outlines how Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) and CAFOs are regulated by EPA and authorized states across the country.

Permits

The new rule requires a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for CAFOs (also called a CAFO permit) that discharge or propose to discharge. AFOs and large CAFOs that do not discharge, or propose to discharge, are not required by law to obtain a permit.

In Utah, two permitting options are available: a CAFO permit or Utah’s AFO Permit-by-Rule. Both the CAFO permit and the AFO Permit-by-Rule will provide enforcement protection (protection from fines and penalties) if a discharge occurs due to a 25-year, 24-hr storm event or greater. (See compliance flowchart p.4)

Facilities that Require a CAFO Permit

• Large CAFOs that discharge or propose to discharge to a water of the State
• Small and Medium AFOs that require a CAFO permit are:
  • Medium AFOs that discharge through direct animal contact or through a man-made device (pipe, ditch, culvert, etc.) to a water of the State
  • Small AFOs that are designated as a significant polluter based on an on-site inspection and discharges through a man-made device or direct animal contact

Facilities that Do Not Require a CAFO Permit

• AFOs and CAFOs that will not discharge, regardless of cause or storm event size, are not required by law to obtain a permit
• Medium and Small AFOs that do not have discharges as described above are not required to obtain a permit. (Note: Although Many Medium and Small AFOs may NOT require a CAFO permit, they may want to consider Utah’s AFO Permit-by-Rule for some enforcement protection.)

Facilities that May Get the AFO Permit-By-Rule

• Medium and Small AFOs may voluntarily obtain Utah’s AFO Permit-By-Rule
• Facilities that obtain the AFO Permit-by-Rule, and follow its requirements, will have some enforcement protection without going through the CAFO NPDES permitting process

Discharge

• Any pollutant in any amount that contacts a water of the State
• A pollutant from an AFO or CAFO may include manure, wastewater, manure runoff, compost, litter, or feed
• Discharges can result from any cause or rainfall amount

Propose to Discharge

• Any AFO or CAFO that will have a discharge to a water of the State resulting from any cause or rainfall amount
• If there is any possibility of a discharge, regardless of the cause or storm event size, then you propose to discharge
Does My Facility Require a CAFO Permit?

**AFO**

- **YES**
  - Discharge to water of the State? Or propose to discharge?
    - **YES**
      - **Large CAFOs:**
        - any discharge requires a permit
        - propose to discharge requires a permit (a facility that WILL discharge)
    - **NO**
      - **Medium AFOs:**
        - discharge through pipe, ditch, or other man-made device requires a permit
        - discharge through direct animal contact requires a permit
      - **Small AFOs:**
        - must be designated a CAFO for discharges that are significant contributors to pollutants

- **NO**
  - No Permit is Required

  - **Large CAFOs:**
    - choose permit
    - no permit
  - **Medium AFOs:**
    - choose permit
    - no permit
    - permit-by-rule
  - **Small AFOs:**
    - choose permit
    - no permit
    - permit-by-rule

---

**Permitted facilities can terminate permit coverage when qualified**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Large CAFO</th>
<th>Medium AFO</th>
<th>Small AFO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000+ beef, heifers, or calves</td>
<td>300-999 beef, heifers, calves</td>
<td>1-299 beef, heifers, calves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700+ cows (milking or dry)</td>
<td>200-699 cows (milking or dry)</td>
<td>1-199 cows (milking or dry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125,000+ layers</td>
<td>37,500-124,999 layers</td>
<td>1-37,499 layers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55,000+ turkeys</td>
<td>16,500-54,999 turkeys</td>
<td>1-16,499 turkeys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 + swine (≥55 pounds)</td>
<td>750-2,499 swine, (≥55 pounds)</td>
<td>1-749 swine, (≥55 pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000+ swine (&lt; 55 pounds)</td>
<td>3,000-9,999 swine (&lt; 55 pounds)</td>
<td>1-2,999 swine (&lt; 55 pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000+ sheep</td>
<td>3,000-9,999 sheep</td>
<td>1-2,999 sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500+ horses</td>
<td>150-499 horses</td>
<td>1-149 horses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** A discharge is any pollutant in any amount that contacts a water of the State, resulting from any cause or rainfall amount. Any discharge from an unpermitted Large CAFO is prohibited and requires a permit. Small and Medium AFOs must discharge as specified in rule to require a permit. Permitted facilities are allowed discharges if the permit is followed. Small and Medium AFOs with the Permit by Rule (PBR) may have discharges over the 25-year, 24-hour storm event, if the PBR criteria are followed. Facilities that **will discharge** from any cause or rainfall amount, are those facilities that **propose to discharge** and require a permit.
The Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) will provide Small and Medium AFOs a level of enforcement protection through a Permit-by-Rule (PBR). The PBR is not the CAFO permit, but is a state rule that is similar to the CAFO permit in the enforcement protection provided. The AFOs following the PBR have enforcement protection from storm events greater than the 25-year, 24-hour storm event.

AFO Permit-By-Rule (PBR) Overview

- Only available to Small and Medium AFOs not requiring a CAFO permit
- Voluntary
- Obtained by submitting a certification statement to DWQ
- Producers may terminate PBR coverage
- No fee
- No public notice of NMP

Requirements for the AFO Permit-By-Rule

To qualify for the PBR, an AFO must follow certain requirements which include:
- The design, operation, and maintenance of facilities to provide 25-year, 24-hour storm event containment
- Have an approved Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)
- Annual update of the NMP, when needed (when significant changes in the operation)
- Some AFOs will be randomly inspected

Benefits of the AFO Permit-By-Rule

- Provides enforcement protection (protection against most fines and penalties) if a discharge occurs during a 25-year 24-hour storm event or greater

For More Information

Contact Don Hall (Utah Division of Water Quality) at 801-538-9251 or dghall@utah.gov

or

Go to the Producer’s Website at http://agwastemanagement.usu.edu
CAFO Regulations

**CAFO Permit**

CAFOs that discharge, or propose to discharge (will discharge during storm events) are required to obtain a CAFO permit. If there is no possibility of a discharge, regardless of the storm event size, then a permit is not required.

A Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) CAFO permit will be issued by the Division of Water Quality (DWQ). The permit identifies the requirements a permitted facility must follow and reflects federal requirements in the CAFO Rule.

Permitted facilities have enforcement protection from discharges to waters of the State as long as the permit is followed. Some facilities not requiring the permit may choose to obtain the permit for enforcement protection. DWQ recommends that those not required to obtain the CAFO permit, but choose to, should review the requirements to ensure the producer is able and willing to meet the permit requirements.

**How to Obtain a CAFO Permit**

- The permit is obtained by submitting the notice of intent (NOI), a permit fee, and a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) approved by a certified planner to the Division of Water Quality (DWQ)

- DWQ will review the NMP

- The NMP will be public-noticed on the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) website for 30 days. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the NMP

- Once a permit is issued to a facility, portions of the NMP become permit requirements that must be followed to comply with the permit

- The permit provides coverage for five years

- To apply contact Don Hall (Utah Division of Water Quality) at (801) 538-9251 or dghall@utah.gov

**Currently have a CAFO Permit?**

This permit is valid until the Utah rules are updated (approximately Jan. 2010) and a new CAFO permit is issued.

**Effective Date for New Regulations**

In Utah, the new federal rule will be implemented when the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) changes the state’s regulations to reflect the new federal requirements. These changes are expected around January, 2010. The current Utah rules and CAFO permit are in effect until the rules are updated and a new CAFO permit is issued.
Agricultural Stormwater Exemption

The Agricultural Stormwater Exemption provides protection against a discharge if manure or effluent (manure water) is applied to crop fields or pastures and rain or snow runoff from the fields/pastures flows into a water of the State.

Large size CAFOs are required to have a nutrient management plan to qualify for the Agricultural Stormwater Exemption. The nutrient management planning must follow essential NMP requirements in the federal rule.

Permitted CAFOs with a NMP qualify for the agricultural stormwater exemption through the permit required NMP. Small and Medium AFOs automatically qualify for the agricultural stormwater exemption and do not require a NMP for coverage.

For More Information
Contact Don Hall (Utah Division of Water Quality) at 801-538-9251 or dghall@utah.gov or go to the Producer’s Website at http://agwastemanagement.usu.edu

Manure Management Planner
is a Windows-based computer program that can be used to develop a NMP

Go to:
http://www.agry.purdue.edu/mmp
Utah Strategy Phase II

The Utah Strategy Phase II is a continuation of the cooperative efforts between agricultural agencies, industry and producer groups, and regulatory agencies to address water quality problems from AFOs. The strategy allows for a high degree of industry self-regulation while providing enforcement and corrective actions for facilities which fail to come into compliance with Utah's water quality regulations. The strategy will expire when the CAFO permit expires.

Goal

As NMPs and CNMPs are implemented, AFOs will have improved management practices and wastewater controls. Discharges to waters of the State will be reduced and land application practices will be improved as NMPs and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) are implemented.

Specific Objectives

• Minimize the impact of animal agriculture on Utah's water while maintaining a viable and sustainable agricultural industry

• To the degree possible, the agricultural partners and producers will correct compliance problems prior to regulatory approaches

• Provide technical, financial, and compliance assistance

• Provide CAFO permits to facilities that discharge or propose to discharge

• Provide compliance through a voluntary Permit-By-Rule for AFOs

AFO Assessments

Under the new strategy, the partners will conduct on-site assessments of AFOs, and provide assistance for compliance and financial issues. The AFO assessments will be conducted by the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) and Utah Farm Bureau (FB). Also, representatives of the respective producer groups will assist UACD and FB with the assessments. During the assessments, the assessors will evaluate an AFO's ability to discharge and identify compliance problems that need to be addressed. Assessors will discuss the regulations, the permitting process, and what can be done to improve compliance with the water quality regulations.

The Agricultural Partners Include:

• Utah Division of Water Quality
• Utah Farm Bureau
• Utah Association of Conservation Districts
• Utah State University Extension
• Natural Resources Conservation Service
• Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food, and
• Producer Groups representing dairy, beef, swine, sheep, and poultry
Inspections and Enforcement

Routine regulatory inspections of AFOs and CAFOs will be conducted by the Division of Water Quality (DWQ). These are different than the non-regulatory AFO assessments conducted by the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) and the Utah Farm Bureau (FB). DWQ will conduct routine inspections of some AFOs with the PBR. The number of annual inspections to be conducted has not been determined. DWQ will inspect all Large CAFOs at least every five years. DWQ will also respond to complaints regarding AFO and CAFO water quality problems.

AFOs and CAFOs must comply with the federal, state, and local water quality rules and permits that pertain to them. All AFOs and CAFOs that discharge to waters of the State are subject to enforcement unless a facility has the CAFO permit or the PBR and is in compliance with their respective requirements.

DWQ will conduct enforcement and issue penalties against facilities with illegal discharges and other violations according to DWQ enforcement and penalty policies. EPA and local counties may conduct enforcement for illegal discharges independent of any enforcement conducted by DWQ. AFOs and CAFOs issued Notices of Violation (NOV) are subject to financial penalties for illegal discharges to waters of the State.

Complaints

DWQ will respond to water quality based complaints regarding AFOs and CAFOs. When possible, the partners will accompany DWQ on complaint investigations at AFOs.

Which AFOs will be contacted for a Non-Regulatory On-Site Assessment?

- All AFOs within 2000 feet of surface water or water of the State
- All dairies regardless of proximity to water
- AFOs that failed to come into full compliance under the original strategy
- AFOs that request an assessment

Process for Non-Regulatory On-Site Assessments

The agricultural partners provide technical information and financial assistance to AFOs.

The partners and producers work together to implement NMPs to properly contain wastewater and manage land application of manure and nutrients.
Other Possible Regulations

Mortality Composting

A Nutrient Management Plan must include information regarding the disposal of mortalities. Composting of mortalities is a viable option in Utah. To compost mortalities, a plan must be approved by the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste.

Mortality Composting Contact
Ralph Bohn
Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
801-538-6794
rbohn@utah.gov

Ground Water Quality Regulations

In addition to the UPDES (surface water) requirements AFOs and CAFOs are subject to Ground Water Quality regulations. Depending on the total number of animal units at an animal feeding operation (see Table 1), the design for a liquid manure handling system must receive approval prior to construction from either the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the Division of Water Quality Ground Water Protection Section.

Construction Permits

NRCS may approve designs for small operations with less than 1,500 animal units (equals 1,050 dairy cows or 3,750 swine). Larger operations with 1,500 or more animal units (Table 1) must obtain a Construction Permit in accordance with UAC R317-1, and a Ground Water Discharge Permit in accordance with UAC R317-6.

A Construction Permit can be obtained by submitting the engineering design drawings, construction specifications, and operation and maintenance manual to DWQ. Complete design plans and specifications for a liquid waste handling and storage facility must be certified by a Registered Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the state of Utah.

Table 1. Number of Animals for Required Construction or Groundwater Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Type</th>
<th>Beef Cattle</th>
<th>Swine</th>
<th>Dairy Cattle</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Turkeys</th>
<th>Ducks</th>
<th>Hens or Broilers</th>
<th>Horses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equivalent to 1,500 Animal Units</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>3,750 over 55 pounds each</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>82,500</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Liner Requirements

Liners are required to minimize seepage of wastewater through the bottom of a lagoon or runoff pond to protect the quality and beneficial uses of ground water.

The NRCS liner criteria tables should be used to determine the appropriate liner for any wastewater lagoon or pond. Site-specific subsurface information is needed such as soil profile of the unsaturated zone, depth to water table, background water quality (dissolved solids, nitrate).

The depth of one soil exploration must be at least four feet below the final elevation of the lagoon or pond bottom, and the seasonal high water table must be at least two feet below the lagoon or pond bottom. Structural stability and the proposed lagoon dimensions must be evaluated based on these findings.

Ground Water Permit

The Ground Water Discharge Permit ensures that the quality and beneficial uses of ground water are not being impaired by the liquid waste handling system. Typically, one upgradient well and at least two downgradient monitoring wells are required to monitor ground water elevations and collect ground water samples for laboratory analysis. Typical ground water quality parameters include ammonia, chloride, nitrate/nitrite, and total dissolved solids. Reporting frequency is either quarterly or semi-annually.

An application for a Ground Water Discharge Permit can be obtained from the Ground Water Protection Homepage at http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/GroundWater/gwPermitAp.htm

Groundwater Contact
Rob Herbert
Ground Water Protection Section
Division of Water Quality
(801) 538-6038
rherbert@utah.gov

Liner Criteria

Liner Criteria tables were published in Utah NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 313, Waste Storage Facility (August 2006). The Division of Water Quality incorporated the NRCS liner criteria tables into rule by reference in UAC R317-1 for Construction Permits and R317-6 for Ground Water Discharge Permits.

The majority of lagoon and pond design requirements can be found in the latest edition of the NRCS Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook. In addition, the Utah Guidance for Constructing Liquid Waste Storage Facilities for Animal Feeding Operations can be obtained from the Ground Water Protection Homepage at http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/GroundWater/gwPermitAp.htm.
# Nutrient Management Plans & Certified Planners

## Nutrient Management Plan Information

To see what information is needed for a NMP you can download the Manure Management Planner at: http://www.agry.purdue.edu/mmp

## Certified Planners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Agency</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen, Lynn</td>
<td>District Conservationist</td>
<td>Beaver, UT</td>
<td>(435) 438-5092 x101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whipple, Darrick</td>
<td>UACD</td>
<td>Beaver, UT</td>
<td>(435) 438-5092 x107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradshaw, Jason</td>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>Cedar City, UT</td>
<td>(435) 586-2429 x21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosh, Brian</td>
<td>UACD</td>
<td>Fillmore, UT</td>
<td>(435) 743-6655 x113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rasmussen, Lars</td>
<td>District Conservationist</td>
<td>Fillmore, UT</td>
<td>(435) 743-6655 x111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daugs, Nathan</td>
<td>UACD</td>
<td>Logan, UT</td>
<td>(435) 753-5616 x29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mabey, David</td>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>Logan, UT</td>
<td>(435) 753-5613 x24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mickelson, Thayne</td>
<td>UDAF</td>
<td>Logan, UT</td>
<td>(801) 538-7171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller, Brian</td>
<td>District Conservationist</td>
<td>Manti, UT</td>
<td>(801) 538-7171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young, Larry</td>
<td>Resource Conservationist/Agroamy Retired</td>
<td>Manti, UT</td>
<td>(801) 538-7171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice, Nathan</td>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>Monticello, UT</td>
<td>(435) 587-2473 x123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walbeck, Ralph</td>
<td>UACD</td>
<td>Nephi, UT</td>
<td>(435) 660-0655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McBride, Danny</td>
<td>Research Conservationist</td>
<td>Ogden, UT</td>
<td>(801) 629-0575 x11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas, Howard</td>
<td>Utah Farm Bureau Federation</td>
<td>Preston, ID</td>
<td>(435) 881-8827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beals, Tony</td>
<td>District Conservationist</td>
<td>Price, UT</td>
<td>(435) 637-0041 x31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhalgh, Wayne</td>
<td>District Conservationist</td>
<td>Price, UT</td>
<td>(435) 637-0041 x19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covington, Keith</td>
<td>UACD</td>
<td>Provo, UT</td>
<td>(435) 377-6928 x32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall, Randy</td>
<td>UACD</td>
<td>Provo, UT</td>
<td>(435) 691-2730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warnick, Val</td>
<td>UACD</td>
<td>Provo, UT</td>
<td>(435) 671-2998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koyle, Lynn</td>
<td>UACD</td>
<td>Richfield, UT</td>
<td>(435) 896-8566 x104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller, Boyd</td>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>Richfield, UT</td>
<td>(435) 896-6441 x133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner, Monte</td>
<td>UACD</td>
<td>Richfield, UT</td>
<td>(435) 896-8566 x129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolsey, Lee</td>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>Richfield, UT</td>
<td>(435) 896-6441 x140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maycock, Jeremy</td>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>Roosevelt, UT</td>
<td>(435) 587-2481 x109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hansen, Niels</td>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>Salt Lake, UT</td>
<td>(801) 524-4568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David, Brian</td>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>Tremonton, UT</td>
<td>(435) 257-5403 x30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Assistance Programs for Water Quality Improvements

NonPoint Source Pollution (NPS) Projects

Eligibility: Individuals, businesses, corporations, associations, private entities, and government agencies are eligible for loans and grants.

Purpose: Financial Assistance is to be used for activities within watersheds that address a critical water quality need, protect human health, improve environmental conditions that affect waters of the State, provide incentives for project implementation, and to augment other funding sources.

How to Apply: Submit a financial assistance request form to:
Utah Division of Water Quality,
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870

Eligible Projects: • Reduce untreated or uncontrolled runoff
• Improve critical aquatic resources
• Conserve soil, water or other natural resources
• Protect and improve groundwater quality
• Preserve and protect beneficial uses of water

The highest priority projects are those that address a critical water quality need, will improve human health concerns, or would be not be economically feasible without the grant. Conservation easements, stream restoration, animal waste treatment, and erosion control would be considered high priority projects.

NPS Loans: • Terms may be as low as 0% interest for up to 20 years repayment
• Must be secured with collateral and must be repaid
• Can be used as a matching source of funds for other funding sources*

NPS Grants: • Do not need to be repaid
• Address a critical water quality need or human health concern
• Can be used as a matching source of funds for other funding sources*

* Other funding sources may include (State Revolving Fund (SRF); 319 Nonpoint Source Management
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Grants

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides assistance to agricultural producers in a manner that will:

• Promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals
• Optimize environmental benefits
• Help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental requirements

National Priorities

• Reductions of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity
• Reduction of groundwater contamination
• Reduction of point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations
• Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors
• Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land; and
• Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation

Payment Limitation

• $300,000 per person over a 6-year period
• For conservation programs: persons or legal entities are eligible if the average non-farm adjusted gross income (AGI) is less than $1,000,000 or 2/3 of the average total AGI is from farming, ranching, or forestry

Agriculture Resource Development Loans (ARDL) Loans

Low-interest Agriculture Resource Development Loans (ARDL) loans are administered by the Department of Agriculture under the direction of the Utah Conservation Commission. The ARDL program provides low interest loans to farmers and ranchers for conservation and pollution control projects. Some examples of eligible projects are: animal manure management; riparian improvement; rangeland improvement; reseeding watershed; and wind erosion control.

Objectives

• Conserve soil and water resources
• Increase agricultural yields for croplands, orchards, pasture, range, and livestock
• Maintain and improve water quality
• Conserve and/or develop on-farm energy
• Reduce damages to agriculture as a result of flooding, drought, or other natural disasters

Payment Limitation

ARDL loans are made for a maximum of 12 years at 3% interest with a one-time administration fee of 4%. Payments may be made in annual, quarterly, or monthly installments.

How to Apply for EQIP Grants

Apply at your local USDA Service Center with NRCS or the Farm Service Agency (http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=UT) or online at USDA Online Services.

How to Apply for ARDL Loans

An application can be obtained from your local Conservation District supervisor, from your local Conservation Service Office, or from the Utah Department of Agriculture.
Contact Information

**Utah Division of Water Quality**

**Don Hall**  
AFO/CAFO Program Coordinator  
288 North 1460 West  
PO Box 144870  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870  
Phone: (801) 538-9251  
Email: dghall@utah.gov

**Utah State University Extension**

**Rhonda Miller, Ph.D.**  
Agricultural Environmental Quality Specialist  
ASTE Dept.; 2300 Old Main Hill  
1498 N. 800 E.  
Logan, UT 84322-2300  
Phone: 435-797-3772  
Email: rhonda.miller@usu.edu

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Niels Hansen**  
State Conservation Agronomist  
125 South State Street, Room 4402  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100  
Phone: (801) 524-4568  
Email: niels.hansen@ut.usda.gov

**Turkey Growers**

**Mark Cox**  
Moroni Feed Co.  
15 E. 1900 S. Feed Mill Rd.  
Moroni, UT 84646  
Phone: 435-436-8221  
Email: mcox@moroni.feed.com

**Utah Association of Conservation Districts**

**Ray Loveless**  
UACD Resource Coordinator  
302 E. 1860 S.  
Provo, UT 84606  
Phone: 801-377-5580 Ext 43  
Email: ray.loveless@ut.nacdnet.net

**Pork Producers**

**Haven Hendricks**  
Utah Pork Producers  
55 East 200 North  
Providence, UT 84332  
Phone: 435-752-1208  
Email: utahpork@pcu.net

**Utah Farm Bureau**

**Jan Anderson**  
Resource Conservationist  
653 E. 800 S.  
Payson, UT 84651  
Phone: 801-494-3906  
Email: jancanderson@gmail.com

**Dairy Producers**

**Mike Kohler**  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
PO Box 1082  
Midway, UT 84049  
Phone: 801-420-6158  
Email: mikekohler2009@gmail.com

**Mark Petersen**  
Director, Water Quality Programs  
9865 South State Street  
Sandy, UT 84070-3205  
Phone: 801-450-5981  
Fax: 801-233-3030  
Email: petersenmm@comcast.net

**Howard Thomas, Ph.D.**  
Environmental Specialist,  
941 N. Brookside Dr.  
Preston, Idaho 83263-9658  
Phone: 435-881-8827  
Email: haphomas@plmw.com

**Beef Producers**

**Brent Tanner**  
Utah Beef Council  
150 South 600 East #10B  
Salt Lake City, UT 84102  
Phone: 801-355-0063  
Email: info@utahbeef.org
**Producer s Website**

A website is being developed for producers. This website will provide one site for producers to access information regarding EPA /Utah rules and regulations affecting agriculture. Information on CAFO permits, the Permit-By-Rule, best management practices, research information, etc. will be available on this site.

**Producer s Website Address**

http://agwastemanagement.usu.edu