

# Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Conservation Division Grant Programs

Jim Bowcutt  
Director, Conservation Division  
Small Farm Conference  
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# Conservation Division Programs for Small Farms

There are several programs available for small farmers

- Agricultural Resource Development Loan Program (ARDL)
- Agricultural Voluntary Incentive Program (AgVIP)
- Soil Health Program
- Agricultural Water Optimization Program
- Pollinator Program
- Local Conservation Districts



# AgVIP Program

- This program focuses on nutrient management, specifically animal waste, but could include commercial fertilizer as well.
- \$1,000 one time payment to develop a nutrient management plan.
  - Will require soil tests, manure tests, and crop types
  - Will identify the rate, the timing, and the location of nutrient application.
- Will continue to pay \$12 per acre per year, or a set \$1,000 per year for three years while applicant implements the plan.
  - Records will need to be presented to UDAF planner to receive payment
- Applications accepted year round. Recipients usually announced early fall.

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# Soil Health Program

Soil health is so important when it comes to farming, no matter what scale. Improved soil health will:

- Improve crop yields
- Improve water holding capacity of soil
- Reduce soil loss
- Improve water quality

## In-Field Soil Health Assessment

### Program Manager

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# Ag. Water Optimization

- The purpose of the Agricultural Water Optimization Program is to work with producers to help them optimize water use while maintaining or improving agriculture production.
- To be eligible you must be irrigating using a water right or a water share. Culinary operations are not eligible.
- Ultimately, the producer should install more efficient irrigation practices.
- This is a grant that funds 50% of the total cost of the project.

# Utah Native Pollinator Habitat Program

## Pollinator Plant Distribution

Purpose of the program is to generate native pollinator habitat that can be used by native pollinators for food and shelter.

Native bareroot plants or seed will be distributed to applicants.

- The 2024 application period runs March 1 through April 15, 2024.
- All applicants must submit through our online application form. Other forms of applying will not be accepted.
- Minimum space requirement of 900 square feet needed for consideration
- Each separate project requires a separate application
- Applicants must agree to a 3-year follow-up period

To apply go to the UDAF website:  
<https://ag.utah.gov/pollinator-habitat-program/>



**PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS**  
Building Healthy Habitats with Utah Native Plants

**Desert Marigold**  
*Baileya multiradiata*

Also short-lived perennial

**Common Native Bee Species**

<b>Leaf Cutter Bee</b> (Megachile spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small to medium size (1/4-1/2")</li><li>• Nests in existing holes in ground, twigs, soil, or plant stems.</li><li>• Active from April-October</li></ul>	<b>Mason Bee</b> (Cerina spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small to large size (1/4-5/4")</li><li>• Nests in holes in wood</li><li>• Active from March-June</li></ul>
<b>Wool Carder Bees</b> (Anthidium spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medium size (1/2")</li><li>• Builds nests from woolly plant hairs</li><li>• Active from May-September</li></ul>	<b>Large Carpenter Bees</b> (Xylocopa spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large size (5/4")</li><li>• Chews holes in wood for nests</li><li>• Active from April-October</li></ul>
<b>Small Carpenter Bees</b> (Cercaria spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small size (1/4")</li><li>• Nests in hollow plant stems</li><li>• Active from June-September</li></ul>	<b>Mining Bees</b> (Family: Andrenidae) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small to medium size (1/4-1/2")</li><li>• Nests underground</li><li>• Active from March-September</li></ul>
<b>Digger Bees</b> (Amegilla spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large size (1/4")</li><li>• Digs burrows into dry soil</li><li>• Active from March-October</li></ul>	<b>Bumble Bees</b> (Bombus spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most are large in size (5/4-1"), some medium (1/2")</li><li>• Nests in plant stems, woody debris, underground</li><li>• Active from June-September</li></ul>

**ANNUAL WILDFLOWERS**

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# Agricultural Resource Development Loan (ARDL) Program

The ARDL program provides low interest loans to farmers and ranchers for projects which meet the conservation and pollution control goals of the program.

## Some examples of eligible projects are:

- Irrigation systems
- Animal manure management
- Riparian improvement
- Selected crop and food storage (hay storage, hoop houses, etc.)
- Hydroponic and aquaponic projects

## Current Interest rates:

- 2.75% for loans > \$104,000
- 3.00% for loans \$52,001-103,999
- 3.25% for loans <\$52,000

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# Local Conservation Districts

- There are currently 38 Local Conservation Districts around the state.
- Their purpose is to help improve and protect natural resources, while continuing to assist agricultural productivity.
- Many have bare root tree sales every year, and outreach events highlighting grant opportunities and educational seminars.
- Most have equipment to rent: No till drills, range drills, rodent control, weed spraying equipment, etc.
- Find your local conservation district:  
<https://ag.utah.gov/farmers/conservation-division/conservation-districts/>





# Other Programs of Interest

## Conservation Stewardship Program- NRCS

- NRCS planners will come look at your property and evaluate current conditions, then develop a conservation plan with you. If you are able to implement the conservation plan and improve your operation they will give you a minimum payment of \$4,000 per year. They could also cost share on various practices to help meet the goals in your conservation plan.
- Contact your Local NRCS field office.

## USU Extension Water Quality Grants

- Up to \$10,000 to implement projects that will improve water quality on smaller animal operations.
- 80/20 match requirement
- Contact Jake Hadfield USU Extension: [Jacob.hadfield@usu.edu](mailto:Jacob.hadfield@usu.edu)

# Questions???

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