

Water Optimization Program

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Agricultural Water Optimization
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
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Water Optimization Program Purpose

- Maintain viable agriculture while reducing water depletion
- Enhance water availability and improve water quality
- Improve water quantification by showing accurate, real-time measurement of diverted water to demonstrate actual water savings in CFS and acre foot
- Improve and protect surface and ground water quality by reducing over watering of crops
- Provide increased operational flexibility to agricultural water users

General Information

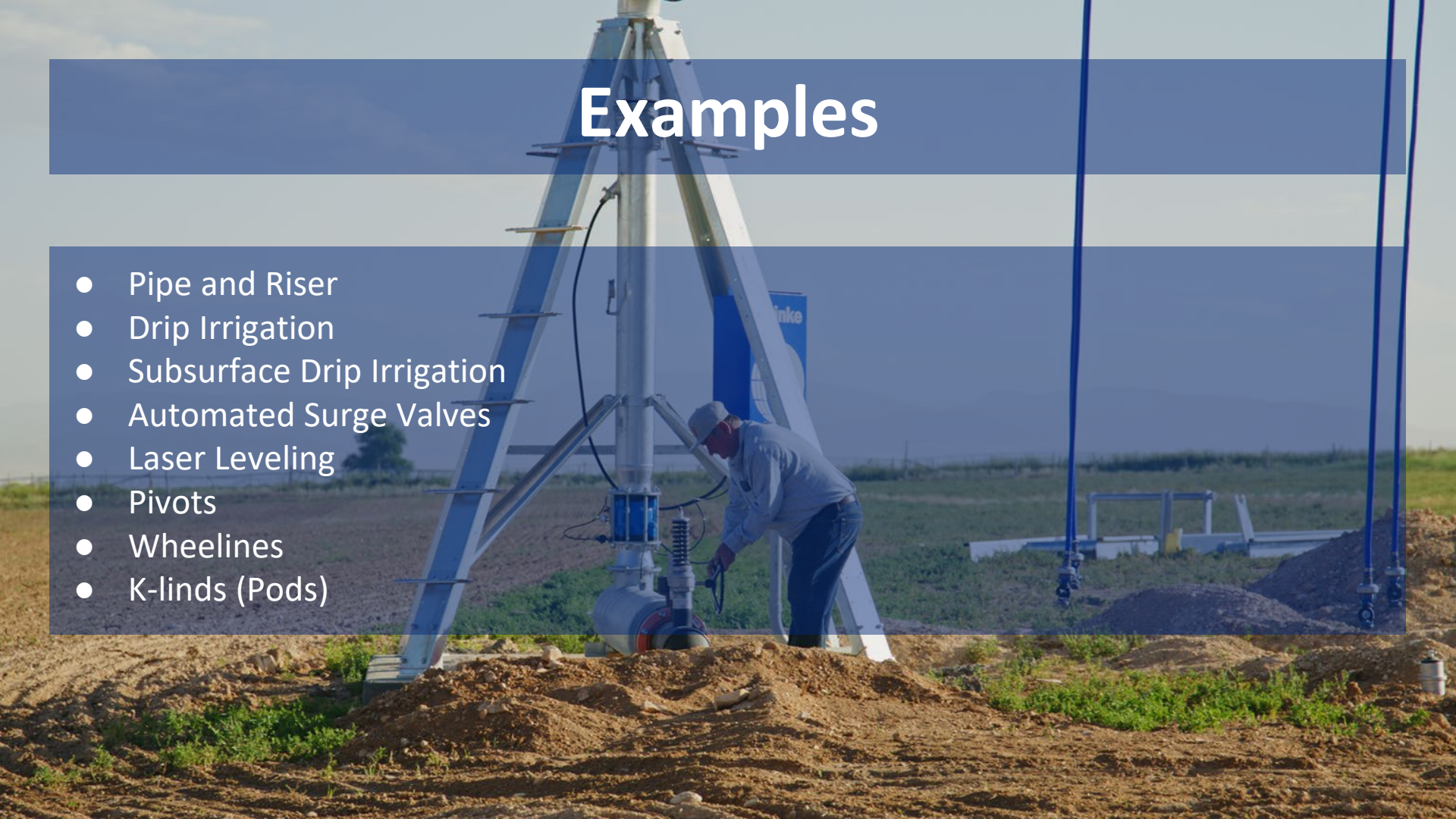
- \$500,000 max award
- 50/50 match
- 10% grantee contribution
- No end guns or big guns
- New materials
- Reimbursement
- 20% withheld until project completion
- No more cap at \$7,000/acre
- Must have a consultation with Division of Water Rights

Watch website for announcements of future application periods (this Fall)
<https://ag.utah.gov/farmers/conservation-division/water-optimization-program/>



Examples

- Pipe and Riser
- Drip Irrigation
- Subsurface Drip Irrigation
- Automated Surge Valves
- Laser Leveling
- Pivots
- Wheelines
- K-linds (Pods)



Requirements

- **Flow Meters**
 - Required on all funded Water Optimization projects
 - Must be in real-time with the capability to record and store data
 - Water metering reports must be submitted electronically
 - Real-time water metering should occur each time water is diverted
- **Evaluation of Nutrient Load Reduction**
- **Annual Reports (3 years)**
 - Irrigation season
 - Water diverted for the irrigation season
 - Acres irrigated
 - Crops irrigated
 - Crop yields

Looking Forward

- Have an idea of costs and design
- Work with a UDAF planner
- Other funding sources
 - Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP - NRCS)
 - UDAF Loan Program (ARLD)

Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Loan Terms
Less than \$52,000	3.25%	7 years or 15 Years
\$52,001 - \$103,999	3%	15 Years
\$104,000 or More	2.75%	15 Years



UDAF Planners

Hannah Freeze – Program Manager (435)764-6258

Brian Christensen – Assistant Program Manager (435)494-9760

Liz Hamilton – Assistant Program Manager (385)522-6246

Nick Coffey – Cache, Rich, Tooele, SLC, Utah Wasatch Counties (385)228-7163

Ben Law – Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Morgan, Summit Counties (385)622-3461

Hayes Mills – Millard, Sanpete, Juab, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Beaver, Iron, Garfield, Washington, Kane Counties (385)228-8258

Tanner Mills – Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan Counties (385)228-2710



Utah's Water Budget

Factor	Acre Feet
Mean annual precipitation	61,348,000
Mean annual diversion – 7.74%	4,751,000
Remaining in nature	56,597,000
Diversion to Human Use	
Ag irrigation diversion – 6.7% of total, or 79.2% of amount diverted	3,761,000
Landscape irrigation ~0.96% or 12.4% of amount diverted	589,000
Industry/Community – 0.64% or 8.33% excluding landscape irrigation	395,540

Source: Utah Division of Water Resources. 30-year period ending 2018



Questions

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