

## **Gopher Trapping Opportunity for Youth Through the Juab Conservation District**

**By: Jacob Hadfield**

Spring has finally come to the county and as the snow clears many of you might have noticed some new mounds piling up. Gophers are also enjoying the warm weather and are starting to thrive once again. Gophers can be very damaging to agricultural crops and control methods must be used to keep fields healthy. To assist with this, the Juab Conservation District has created a gopher trapping program for youth 17 and under. A \$3 bounty is being offered for gopher tails, just the tails nothing more. All tails must be turned in by May 8<sup>th</sup>, and payment will be provided shortly after. Below is the contact information of the people to get a hold of once gophers are caught in the different areas across the county.

For Levan – Dave Shepherd 435-860-0413, Brett Gurr 435-691-1904

For Nephi – Marty Palmer 435-860-0697

For Mona – Gordon Young 435-531-9629

To assist with this program the USU Extension office in Juab County will be hosting a gopher trapping clinic for youth who are interested in this program and might not know how to trap. The clinic will cover the latest research regarding trapping gophers, as well as the most effective methods. Adults are invited to come to the clinic as well if they are interested in learning more. Please check our USU Extension - Juab County social media pages for details that will be coming soon.

While people may not think that gophers are a nuisance, they can cause serious damage in a short period of time. One gopher, in one year, can move 2,000 pounds (1 ton) of soil. This much soil being moved can quickly degrade fields and create huge problems regarding soil conservation. The gopher tunnels can also create hazards especially if they cave in or create large ruts. One of the main reasons gophers constantly burrow is because their teeth never stop growing. The only way that gophers can keep their teeth filed down is they have to keep digging in their tunnels. Most often gophers have a litter in the spring, however when conditions are right one gopher can have up to 3 litters in one year, which can be very problematic when there is a large infestation present.

The gopher bounty program is a great opportunity for youth to be able to learn how to trap gophers and make some money while doing it. A special shout-out needs to go to the Juab Conservation District for all their hard work in organizing this program. If there are any questions regarding the program or about gopher in general, please reach out to the Juab County Extension office. Happy trapping!