

## **Duchesne Conservation District**

The Duchesne Conservation District is a non-regulatory local agency that works with landowners to help resolve their natural resource issues on their land. Please contact us if you have questions about the soil, water, and wildlife conditions on your property.

### **Board Members**

Steve Remund – Chairman

Dave Evans – Treasure

Rodger Ames

Kent Bastian

Conley Moon

### **Board Meetings**

Last Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Duchesne Water Conservancy District office.

### **Mission Statement**

The Function of the conservation district – To take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources.

### **District Program**

**Conservation Tree Program** – The conservation district each year sells trees and shrubs for conservation. Tree order forms usually are available in January and tree pick-up the end of April. Check back for availability list.

Erosion/Weed Control fabric and Hydrosource is available for purchase year-round.

**No-till drills** – Two drills are available to rent from the conservation district. A six-foot planting width that is a 3-point hookup as well as a twelve-foot towable drill. Each drill is on a drop-down trailer for easy transport.

## **State Programs – Utah Department of Agriculture and Food**

<https://ag.utah.gov/>

The following are some of the programs available from the State of Utah. For more detailed information on the listed programs please visit the website listed above.

**ARDL** – Agriculture Resource and Development Loan (ARDL) Program: The program is managed by the division for the Utah Conservation Commission in cooperation with the local conservation districts throughout the State. The purpose of the loans is to finance improvements for landowners to provide for greater efficiencies in agriculture operations, range improvements, water and soil conservation, disaster assistance and environmental quality. The loans are written for a maximum of fifteen-year terms at tiered interest rate levels and may carry an administration fee that goes directly to support local conservation efforts across the state. ARDL is a low interest loan program to assist landowners with conservation projects.

**AgVIP** - The goal of the Agriculture Voluntary Incentive Program (AgVIP) is to implement practices that can increase crop yields, improve soil health, and add value to operations, while improving water quality.

Soil Health - UDAF's Utah Soil Health Program was created during the 2021 General Session (HB0296) to recognize soil health as essential to protecting the

state's soil and water resources, bolstering the state's food supply, and sustaining the state's agricultural industry.

The purpose of the program is to promote the adoption of soil health practices through increasing our understanding of soil health and its impacts on the productivity, economics, and environmental aspects of agriculture as well as how it benefits the general public of Utah.

The program uses a voluntary / incentive-based approach through domestication, education, and research along with implementation projects to promote soil health benefits. Working with multiple partners, agencies, and stakeholders to combine efforts, and acquire funding and grants to implement projects under the umbrella of the Utah Soil Health Partnership (USHP).

**Pollinator Program** - Pollinators are a crucial part of our world. Without pollinators we would not have flowers, fruit, vegetables, or many other plants. Unfortunately, the numbers of native pollinators such as native bees and butterflies have experienced a sharp decline over the past several decades. While there are several factors contributing to this decline, one of the main factors is habitat loss, including reduced numbers of native plants that provide food, shelter, and breeding grounds for these pollinators.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, in cooperation with Southern Utah University, Utah State University, and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, have started a program focused on educating Utahns about what can be done to improve native pollinator habitats from their farming operations to their backyard gardens. This program will identify species of pollinator-friendly plants that can be planted on your property to help native pollinators. It also provides funding to interested individuals to help purchase the seeds or plants that our experts recommend.

**Water Optimization Funding** - The purpose of this grant is to effectuate the following goals:

- Improve Water Optimization by reducing consumptive water use while maintaining or improving agriculture production and profitability and providing increased operational flexibility for agriculture water users moving forward.

- Improve Water Quantification by showing accurate, real-time measurement of diverted water to demonstrate actual water savings in CFS and acre foot.
- Document the availability of water after implementation of a Water Optimization Project.
- Improve and protect surface and ground water quality by reducing overwatering of crops.

## **Partners**

**NRCS** – Natural Resource Conservation Service

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ut/home/>

**FSA** – Farm Service Agency

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Utah/index>

**USU Extension** – Utah State University Extension

<https://extension.usu.edu/>