



Utah Department of  
**Agriculture**  
and Food



Sustains & Rewards Agriculture | Educates | Protects the Environment

# Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship

*Sustains and Rewards Agriculture – Educates - Protects the Environment*

## ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION



September 15, 2014

# Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship

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Utah law ([Title 4 Section 18](#), Utah Code) requires the Conservation Commission to develop the Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship (ACES), applicable to each agricultural sector. It helps agricultural producers, of all sizes, evaluate their entire operation and make management decisions that sustain agricultural viability, protect natural resources, support environmentally responsible agricultural production practices, and promote positive public opinion. To become eligible, producers must complete three comprehensive steps: 1) document completion of education modules, 2) complete a detailed application to evaluate on-farm risk, and 3) participate in an on-farm inspection to verify program requirements applicable to state and federal environmental standards and regulations. The certification will be for a 5-year term, with renewal for an additional 5 years upon inspection.

## Certified Planner

"Certified conservation planner" means a planner of a conservation district, or other qualified planner that has been certified by NRCS and approved by the conservation commission to issue a Certificate of Environmental Stewardship.

## Agricultural Sectors

There are four sectors which have been identified including: FARMSTEAD, ANIMAL FEEDING and CROPPING. Producer(s) can request ACES for any sector or combination of sectors.

## Protects Natural Resources

The ACES process ensures all participating agricultural producers are making decisions that balance production and environmental demands. Measures aimed at protecting soil, water, air, plants, animals, and other

environmental factors mean ACES producers are committed to farming and ranching practices that protect Utah's natural resources.

## Viable & Sustainable Agriculture

The production of food and fiber is essential to a healthy population. ACES is based on scientific standards that allow farmers to address environmental concerns while remaining economically viable.

## Connects Farms & Public Opinion

Agriculture plays a vital role in Utah communities, and ACES strengthens the relationships between farmers and their neighbors. Producers who closely examine their operation's potential impact on soil, water, air, plants and animals understand the impact these practices can have on their neighbors.

## ACES is Supported by

ACES is a collaborative effort of Utah producers, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Utah Conservation Commission, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, local Conservation Districts, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, commodity organizations, universities, and other state and federal agencies.

## Benefits of ACES

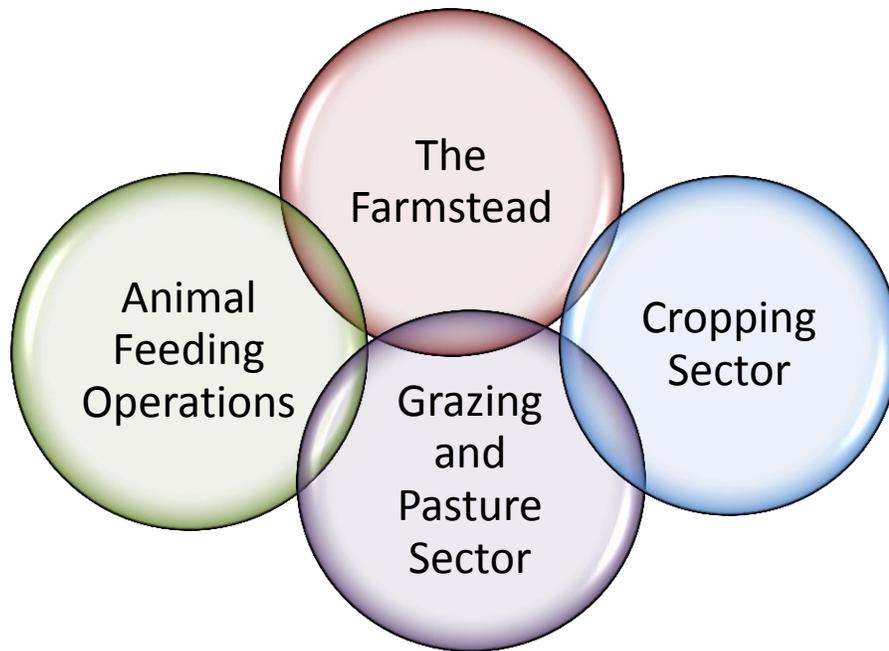
ACES will provide an extra level of protection against frivolous complaints, and help producers market their commodities.

## Expectations of ACES

- Enable producers to evaluate their agricultural practices and make necessary adjustments.
- Recognize significant conservation goals that have already been achieved.
- Adopt land use practices that maintain or improve agricultural land, while sustaining natural resources.
- Create new opportunities to use conservation for income.

# ACES Agricultural Sectors

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## The Farmstead

- Fertilizer storage and handling
- Fuel storage
- Hazardous material management
- Invasive and noxious weeds
- Pesticide storage and handling
- Record keeping
- Septic system

## Animal Feeding Operations

- Feed management
- Invasive and noxious weeds
- Manure storage and handling
- Mortality disposal
- Nutrient Management Plan
- Recordkeeping

## Cropping Sector

- Fertilizer application
- Invasive and noxious weeds
- Irrigation water management
- Land application of manure
- Pest management
- Record keeping
- Soil health and erosion
- Soil testing
- Water conservation
- Wildlife habitat

## Grazing and Pasture lands

- Forest / BLM grazing allotment
- Grazing plans
- Grazing rotation
- Invasive and noxious weeds
- Record keeping
- Riparian health
- Wildlife and Aquatic habitat

# EDUCATION MODULES

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*The education requirement is completed by the owner/manager. The purpose is to provide the owner/operator with educational materials that have been developed by experts to help owner/operator improve their agricultural productivity while protecting and improving the environment.*

*To complete this section, a owner/operator must present evidence to the Certified Planner that he/she has attended eligible workshop(s), and/or reviewed materials that are located on the ACES website at:*

<http://ag.utah.gov/stewardshipcertification/index.html>.

*Below is a list of education modules for each agriculture sector, for ACES certification.*

## Farmstead

1. Fertilizer Storage and Handling
2. Invasive and Noxious Weeds Management
3. Pesticide Training
4. Petroleum Storage and Handling
5. Safety and Critical Management
6. Septic Tank Maintenance
7. Well head protection

## Animal Feeding Operation

1. Air Quality, Odor and Pest Management
2. Animal Health and Record Keeping
3. Feed Storage and Handling
4. Invasive and Noxious Weeds Management
5. Manure Storage, Handling and Testing Methods
6. Nutrient Management Plan

## Cropping Sector

1. Fertilizer Application and Soil Testing
2. Integrated Pest Management
3. Invasive and Noxious Weeds Management
4. Pesticide Training,
5. Soil Health and Management
6. Water Conversion and Irrigation Management
7. Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management

## Grazing and Pasture Land

1. Grazing Management Plans
2. Invasive and Noxious Weeds Management
3. Riparian and Wetland Management
4. Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management

# ACES Workbook



## Animal Feeding Operation Sector

***In accordance with the Federal Privacy Act, this workbook is the property of the owner/operator. It must be retained by the owner/operator and available for review by the certified planner.***

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Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) means a lot or facility where the following conditions are met:

Animals have been, are, or will be stabled, housed, or confined and fed or maintained for a total of forty-five (45) days or more in any 12-month period;

- Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility; and
- Two or more AFOs under common ownership are considered to be a single AFO if they adjoin each other or if they use a common area or system for the storage or disposal of waste.

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**Questions in red determine if that section needs to be completed, questions in blue must be initialed by owner/operator and certified planner to qualify for certification in this sector, and questions in black are for producer's information.**

1	<p>By definition, is this facility an Animal Feeding Operation? <b>If No, then stop here and go to another Agricultural Sector.</b></p> <p>Yes                      No</p>	<p><b><u>First column owner/operator initial, second column certified planner initial, and last column is for the five year renewal, certified planner and owner/operator initial. Initialing indicates implementation of the practice.</u></b></p>
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## LARGE CAFOS AND MEDIUM AFOS DESIGNATED AS CAFOS WITH UPDES PERMIT

1	<p>Are you a large CAFO with an UPDES permit from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes                      No</p> <p>Type and size of CAFO:</p> <p>Dairy:                      _____</p> <p>Beef:                        _____</p> <p>Turkey:                    _____</p> <p>Chicken Layers: _____</p> <p>Pork:                        _____</p> <p>Horses:                    _____</p> <p>Sheep:                     _____</p> <p>Other:                      _____</p> <p>Number of days the animals are confined during the year: _____</p>	/	/	Certified Planner	<p>If Yes, then the permit must be reviewed by the Certified Planner, and all conditions of the permit must be followed.</p> <p>You are required to have a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on file.</p> <p>The Certified Planner must review the NMP with the CAFO owner/operator. All requirements in the NMP must be met to qualify for the ACES Animal Feed Operation agricultural sector. Records that are a requirement of the NMP must be reviewed by the Certified Planner. The Certified Planner will contact the Division of Water Quality to verify permit compliance.</p>	5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner
2	<p>Are the conditions of the UPDES permit being followed?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes                      No</p>					
3	<p>Is the NMP being followed?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes                      No</p>					
4	<p>Name and contact information of the Certified Planner who approved the NMP.</p>					

## LARGE CAFOS AND MEDIUM OR SMALL AFOS WITHOUT UPDES PERMIT

1	<p>Are you a large CAFO, medium, or small AFO, and have opted to not have an UPDES permit from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes                      No</p> <p>Type and size of CAFO:</p> <p>Dairy:                      _____</p> <p>Beef:                        _____</p> <p>Turkey:                    _____</p> <p>Chicken Layers: _____</p> <p>Pork:                        _____</p> <p>Horses:                    _____</p> <p>Sheep:                     _____</p> <p>Other:                      _____</p> <p>Number of days the animals are confined during the year: _____</p>	/	/	Certified Planner		5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner
2	<p>Have you implemented your <a href="#">Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)</a> and does it meet <a href="#">40 CFR122.42§(1)(i)-(viii)</a> and <a href="#">R317-8-10.9</a>?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes                      No</p>				<p>A Nutrient Management Plan must be on file and written and reviewed by the Certified Planner. Review <a href="#">UCC Practice Standard 590 - Nutrient Management</a></p>	
3	<p>Do you have a current <a href="#">Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)</a> for storage, handling, transport, and application of manure?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes                      No</p>					
4	<p>Are the management practices in the nutrient management documents being followed?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes                      No</p>					
5	<p>Are the operation and facilities designed, operated and maintained so no agriculture water discharge may occur from any of the manure storage facilities, animal housing and feeding areas, or processing facilities?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes                      No</p>					<p>Utah Code <a href="#">19-5-102-1</a> Definition of an Agriculture Discharge</p>

Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship

6	<p>Are the manure storage facilities maintained in good working condition to handle a large weather event? This is a 100-year, 24-hour storm event for swine, poultry or veal; for all other animals it is a 25-year, 24-hour storm event.</p> <p>Yes                      No</p>	<p>✓ ✓</p>	<p>Certified Planner</p>	<p>The Certified Planner will inspect to see if the manure storage facilities and other areas and or management practices are being followed to prevent an Agriculture Discharge.</p>	<p>5 Year Renewal Owner &amp; Planner</p>
7	<p>Are management practices such as berms, fences, vegetative buffers, watering troughs, etc. constructed and maintained to prevent an Agriculture Discharge?</p> <p>Yes                      No</p>			<p>An Agriculture Discharge should be reported to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food within 24 hours of the discharge.</p>	
8	<p>Are operation and facilities general areas designed to prevent commingling of water between that area and the manure storage facilities, animal housing and feeding areas, or processing facilities and to prevent an Agriculture Discharge?</p> <p>Yes                      No</p>				
9	<p>Are dead animals disposed of according to the nutrient management plan and/or best management practices being followed to protect the waters of the state?</p> <p>Yes                      No</p>			<p>Treatment or disposal of livestock and poultry mortality shall be according to State and Local Laws.</p>	
10	<p>Are manure records maintained on-site and available for review?</p> <p>Yes                      No</p>			<p>Manure test should be taken at least yearly and records must be maintained on site for a period of at least 5 years.</p>	
11	<p>Are you managing noxious or invasive weeds listed by the state or county?</p> <p>Yes                      No</p>			<p>Producer should be implementing local ordinances that pertain to weed control. Review <a href="#">UCC Practice Standard 315 - Herbaceous Weed Control</a>.</p>	

Certification is valid for five (5) years, an owner/operator may renew certification for additional five (5) years, totaling a period of ten years, before an owner/operator needs to recertify.

An owner/operator may apply for protection under Permit by Rule (PBR) from the Division of Water Quality by filling out the back page in this workbook and sending it to the Division of Water Quality.



## Contact Information

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*This assessment is voluntary and must be completed and signed by an approved certified planner and the owner/operator. The workbook is the property of the owner/operator and is to be retained for review by the owner/operator and certified planner. Please complete the contact information below.*

**Please complete the following information:**

Name of Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Land Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Upon approval by the Utah Conservation Commission, it is recommended that the agricultural operation owned by \_\_\_\_\_, be awarded the ***Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship*** for the **Animal Feeding Sector** having met all of the conditions set forth in the Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship Workbook. ***I certify that the information provided in this workbook, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and acknowledge that I am following UCC practice standards as adopted on date of signature.***

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Owner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Certified Conservation Planner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Third Party Certifier \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Approved for Certification*

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Utah Conservation Commission – Chair, LuAnn Adams \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship



This agriculture operation has completed the ACES workbook and is requesting protection under the Permit by Rule (PBR) from the division of water quality. ***I certify that the information provided in this workbook, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.***

Owner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Land Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Remove this page and send it to***

**Division of Water Quality, attn: Don Hall**

**195 North 1950 West**

**P.O. Box 144870**

**Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114-4870**

**or e-mail it to [dghall@utah.gov](mailto:dghall@utah.gov)**