



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

CROPPING SECTOR



September 15, 2014

Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship

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 OPERATIONS, GRAZING, 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.

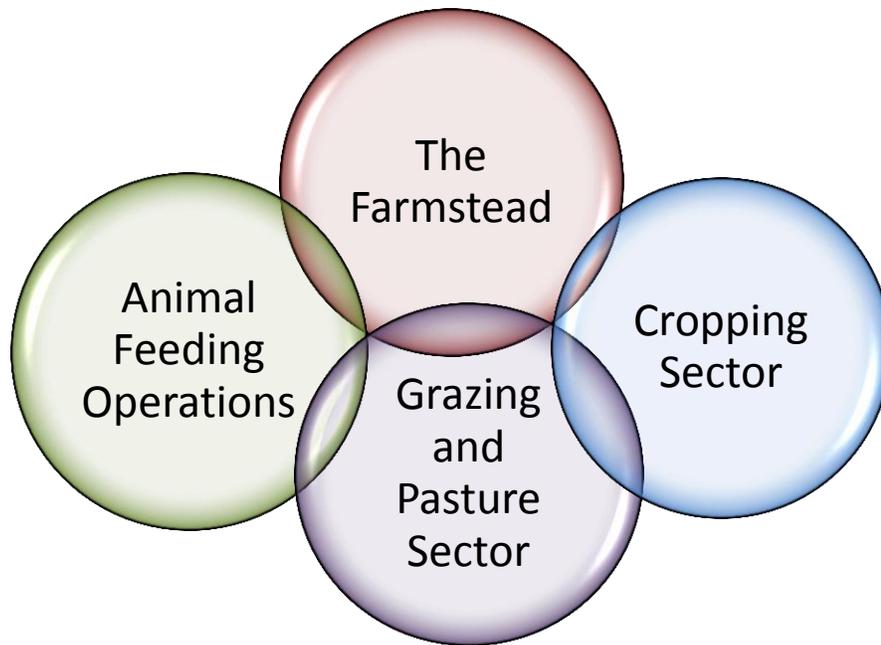
Benefits of ACES

The 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



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

The education requirement is completed by the owner/operator. 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, an 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

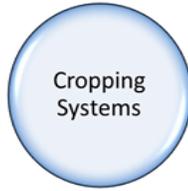
1. Fertilizer Application and Soil Testing
2. Integrated Pest Management
3. Invasive and Noxious Weeds Management
4. Pesticide Training,
5. Soil Health and Management
6. Water Conversion and Irrigation Management
7. Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management

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

Cropping 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.

Cropping is the area where crops are planted, raised, and harvested. This includes but is not limited to fruits, vegetables, grain, oil seeds and alfalfa.

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 owner/operator information.

1	<p>By definition, does this farm or ranch include Cropping Systems? If No, stop here and go to another Agriculture Sector.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>	<p><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></p>		
2	<p>What crops do you usually grow?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small grains (e.g. barley, wheat, oats)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Corn</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alfalfa</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pasture for hay</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Canola</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Safflower</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Berries</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Orchard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Row Crops</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other List _____</p>	<p>/</p> <p>/</p>	<p>Certified Planner</p>	<p>5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner</p>
3	<p>Are you managing noxious or invasive weeds listed by the state or county?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>			<p>Are producers implementing local ordinances that pertain to weed control? Review UCC Practice Standard 315, Herbaceous Weed Control.</p>

SOIL HEALTH						
1	<p>Have you identified environmentally sensitive areas in your cropping systems that are located near surface water, highly erodible land, soils with high leaching or runoff potential, or other concerns that require additional management when applying nutrients or pesticides?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>	/	/	Certified Planner	<p>Certified planner will review all concerns and document what management practices or/will be implemented.</p>	5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner
2	<p>Are practices in place to improve or maintain soil health?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>				<p>Certified Planner should review NRCS's soil health index with the producer.</p>	
FERTILIZER APPLICATION						
1	<p>Do you apply commercial fertilizer to your cropping system?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>				<p>Do you follow manufacturer's recommendations?</p>	
2	<p>If you apply manure to your cropping system that is from an animal feeding operation, is it according to soil and manure tests based on farm yield goals or average crop yields?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>				<p>Records should be kept on crop production yields for proper fertilizer application.</p>	
3	<p>Is fertilizer application based on soil test recommendations and on farm yield goals or average crop yields?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>					
4	<p>Do you regularly perform soil testing for nutrient levels in each field?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> <p>_____ Every year for annual crops. _____ Once every 3 years for perennials.</p>				<p>It is recommended that soil tests be kept for at least 5 years to help track nutrient trends in the soil.</p>	
5	<p>Are records of soil test reports and quantities of nutrients applied to individual fields maintained? Also, are crop yields recorded for evaluating performance?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>					
6	<p>Is fertilizer application equipment checked for proper calibration?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>				<p>Manure application equipment should be calibrated to ensure proper application of nutrients.</p>	
7	<p>Do you test manure for nutrient content?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>				<p>Manure test should be taken at least yearly for each species produced and records kept for five years.</p>	

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8	Do you spread manure during the winter? Yes No	✓ ✓	Certified Planner	Producers should follow UCC Practice Standard 590 - Nutrient Management .	5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner
9	Is there evidence of applied fertilizer or manure resulting in an Agriculture Discharge? Yes No			Utah Code 19-5-102-1 Definition of an Agriculture Discharge	
PESTICIDE APPLICATION					
1	If you use restricted use pesticides (RUP), do you have a Utah Pesticide Applicators License? Yes No			UDAF Rule 68-7 License No. Expiration Date:	
2	Do you and your employees follow the pesticide label for safety and application rates? Yes No			UDAF Rule 68-7-13 Transportation, Storage, Handling, Use and Disposal of Pesticides and Pesticide Containers. The Certified Planner must review UDAF Rule 68-7-13 with the Farmstead Owner to assure they properly understand the laws for transportation, storage, handling, and disposal of pesticides and containers and follow product label.	
3	Do you utilize the win-pest model or a similar tool to protect waters of the state? Yes No			Review UCC Practice Standard 595 - Integrated Pest Management .	
4	Is pesticide application equipment correctly calibrated and maintained so that the intended pesticide rate is applied? Yes No			Equipment should be inspected before each use to ensure equipment is functioning correctly.	

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5	<p>Are pesticide application records kept for at least 5 years?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>	/	/	<p>Certified Planner</p> <p>New proposed changes to the “Workers Protection Act” by EPA</p>	<p>5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner</p>
IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT					
1	<p>What method(s) of irrigation do you use?</p> <p>_____ Flood irrigation – land leveled</p> <p>_____ Flood irrigation – wild flood</p> <p>_____ Gated pipe</p> <p>_____ Sprinkler irrigation / pivot</p> <p>_____ Drip system</p> <p>_____ Other</p>			<p>Certified Planner may suggest operation review UCC Practice Standard 449 Irrigation Water Management to determine if there are any water conversion practices which could benefit the operation.</p>	
2	<p>Do you have an Irrigation Water Management Plan (IWM)?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>			<p>Review UCC Practice Standard 449, Irrigation Water Management.</p>	
3	<p>Is irrigation runoff managed to prevent an Agriculture Discharge?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>			<p>Utah Code 19-5-102-1 Definition of an “Agriculture Discharge”</p>	
WILDLIFE HABITAT AND FISHERY					
1	<p>Do you provide habitat for wildlife on your cropping system?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p>			<p>Records should be kept of all Wildlife using your Agriculture resources.</p>	
2	<p>Are wildlife responsible for adverse impacts on any of the cropping systems that you own or operate?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> <p>Describe adverse impacts: _____</p> <p>_____</p>			<p>Mitigation funds may be available thru DWR to help offset losses if proper records are kept.</p>	

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



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Contact Information

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 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: _____

Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship



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.***

Owner/Operator _____ Date _____

Local Conservation District _____ Date _____

Certified Conservation Planner _____ Date _____

Third Party Verification _____ Date _____

Approved for Certification

Utah Conservation Commission – Chair, LuAnn Adams _____ Date _____