



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

FARMSTEAD



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 is 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.

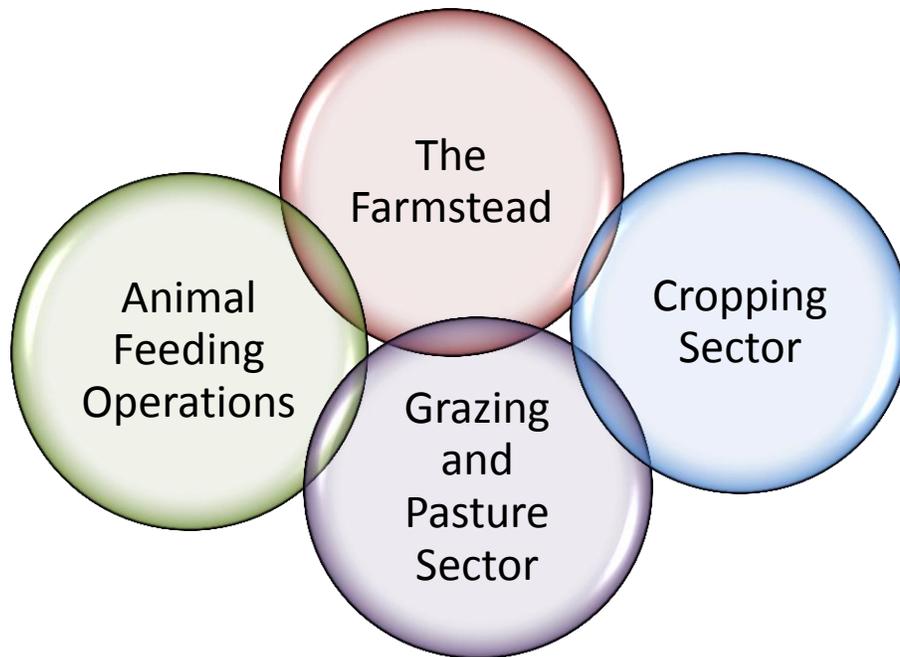
Benefits of ACES

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, 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

The Farmstead 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.

The farmstead is considered to be the central area of operation including homes/office, yards, storage facilities, and other buildings.

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 producers information.

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>By definition, does this farm or ranch have a farmstead area? If No, then stop and go to another Agriculture Sector. 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>Does the Farmstead have an Emergency Plan? Yes No</p> | Owner/Operator | Certified Planner | <p>A Farmstead should have a list of people to contact in case an emergency should occur. Certified Planner will provide a <u>template</u> to be filled out by the Producer.</p> | 5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner |
| 3 | <p>All Farmsteads should have an emergency spill kit in the event of any accidental spill of any hazardous materials that could contaminate the environment.</p> | | | <p>Refer to the ACES website for information about a <u>spill kit</u>.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Are you managing noxious or invasive weeds listed by the state or county? Yes No</p> | | | <p>Producer should be aware of local ordinances that pertain to weed control. Review <u>UCC Practice Standard 315 - Herbaceous Weed Control</u>.</p> | |

| PESTICIDE STORAGE AND HANDLING | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>Do you store, handle or apply any pesticides?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | Owner/Operator | Certified Planner | <p>If no, then go to the Fertilizer Storage and Handling section.</p> | 5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner |
| 2 | <p>Do you have a current pesticide applicator’s license from the State of Utah?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | <p><u>UDAF Rule 68-7</u> License No. _____</p> <p>Expiration Date: _____</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Do you understand the requirements for proper transportation of pesticides?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | <p><u>UDAF Rule 68-7-13</u> Transportation, Storage, Handling, Using, and Disposal of Pesticides and Pesticide Containers.</p> <p>The Certified Planner must review <u>UDAF R68-7-13</u> with the Farmstead owner/operator to assure they properly understand the laws for transportation, storage, handling, and disposal of pesticides and containers, and follow product labels.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Are pesticides stored in the manufactures original containers with labels intact?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | | |
| 5 | <p>Do pesticide storage, handling, and mixing areas adequately prevent contamination of waters of the state?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | | |
| 6 | <p>Are pesticides securely stored to prevent unauthorized access?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | | |
| 7 | <p>Do the secured pesticide storage areas have proper signage?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | | |
| 8 | <p>Are empty pesticides containers triple rinsed, or are label approved cleaning techniques used?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | | |
| 9 | <p>Is the rinse water from the spray equipment properly applied to the farm according to label requirements?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | | |
| 10 | <p>Are backflow devices or an air gap used to prevent cross connections and back siphoning?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | <p><u>UDAF Rule 68-7-13-7:</u> Adequate functioning devices and procedures to prevent back siphoning shall be used.</p> | |
| 11 | <p>Are pesticide handlers and workers properly trained?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | <p>Pages 21-23 of EPA’s <u>“How to Comply with the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides”</u> explain the rule.</p> | |

| FERTILIZER STORAGE AND HANDLING | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>Do you store commercial fertilizer for private use?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | Owner/Operator | Certified Planner | <p>If no, then go to the Petroleum Storage and Handling section.</p> | 5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner |
| 2 | <p>Does the commercial fertilizer storage and handling area adequately prevent contamination of waters of the state?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | <p>All fertilizer must be contained on-site. No fertilizers should runoff from the storage and handling area into any waters of the state.</p> | |
| PETROLEUM PRODUCT STORAGE AND HANDLING | | | | | |
| <p>Compliance under this section does not provide Certification to EPA's SPCC requirements or Utah's Underground Storage Tank Program</p> | | | | | |
| 1 | <p>Do you store petroleum products at the farmstead?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | <p>If no, then go to the Septic System section.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Is there above ground storage of 2,500 gallons or more of petroleum product?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> <p>Describe your above ground storage facilities. Number of tanks: _____ Size of tanks: _____</p> | | | <p>Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) may be required.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Is there below ground storage of 1,100 gallons or more of petroleum product?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> <p>Describe your below ground storage facilities. Number of tanks: _____ Size of tanks: _____</p> | | | <p>May need to meet Utah Underground Storage Tank Program (UST) requirements (<u>40 CFR 280-20</u>).</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Does the petroleum product storage and handling area adequately prevent contamination of waters of the state?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> | | | <p>Utah code <u>19-5-107-1a</u>: It is unlawful for any person to discharge a pollutant into waters of the state.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Do you produce more than 25 gallons per month or store used oil? And is it properly labeled as "Used Oil"? Yes No</p> | | | <p>Utah code <u>19-6-706</u>, rule <u>315-15-2.3</u>: Used oil has to be labeled as "Used Oil".</p> | |

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|---|--|----------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 6 | <p>Is there any evidence of a petroleum spill (more than 25 gallons)?</p> <p>Yes No</p> | Owner/Operator | Certified Planner | <p>Federal Rule 40 CFR 280.53 A spill of more than 25 gallons must be reported within 24 hours by calling (801) 536-4123.</p> | 5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner |
|---|--|----------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|

SEPTIC SYSTEM

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1 | <p>Do you utilize on-site/septic disposal systems to treat sewage from home and/or barn?</p> <p>Yes No</p> | | | <p>All systems should be listed with the local Health Department and comply with local code.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Does the on-site/septic system function as designed by the local Health Department?</p> <p>Yes No</p> | | | | |
| 3 | <p>Do you know the access point of the on-site/septic tank(s)?</p> <p>Yes No</p> | | | <p>To properly maintain the septic tank, it is required to know the access point.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>When was the last time the on-site/septic system was serviced?</p> <p>1 – 5 years ago 6 – 10 years ago More than 10 years ago</p> | | | <p>Septic tanks should be serviced on a regular basis to help maintain their useful life and to prevent contamination of the environment.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Is sewage sludge applied to your agricultural land?</p> <p>Yes No</p> | | | <p>Sewage sludge may be applied under certain conditions, review 40 CFR 503 for requirements.</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.



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: _____



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 _____