



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*

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## GRAZING and PASTURE SYSTEMS



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 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

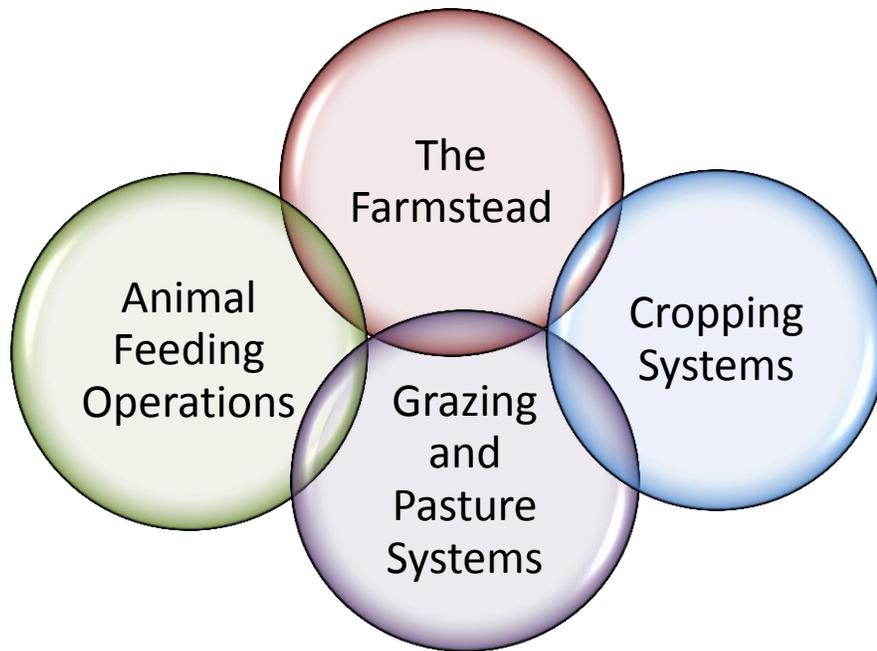
ACES will provide an extra level of protection against frivolous complaints, and help producers market their commodities.

## 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

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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/operator. The purpose is to provide the owner/operator with educational materials that have been developed by experts to help owner/operators, improve their agricultural productivity and to enhance the environmental performance of their agricultural operation.*

*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

## Grazing and Pasture Systems 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.***

Grazing land is considered to be any vegetated land that is grazed or has the potential to be grazed by animals.

As a guideline, lands that are grazed during the growing season will be based on the Utah Grazing Improvement Program (UGIP) Technical Committee grazing principles of “Time”, “Timing” and “Intensity”. For grazing during plant dormancy, the management principle will be based on a grazing management plan.

**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><i>By definition, does this farm or ranch include livestock grazing?</i>  <b>If No then stop here and go to another 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>		
2	<p>Are you managing noxious or invasive weeds listed by the state or county?</p> <p>Yes                  No</p>	<p>— —</p>	<p>Certified Planner</p> <p>Are producers implementing local ordinances that pertain to weed control? Review <a href="#">UCC Practice Standard 315 - Herbaceous Weed Control</a>.</p>	<p>5 Year Renewal Owner &amp; Planner</p>

<b>PRIVATELY OWNED GRAZING LAND</b>						
1	Number of acres of irrigated pasture or sub-irrigated pasture (wet meadows)_____	/	/	Certified Planner	Grazing plans need to follow the states Grazing Improvement Program <u>(GIP) Technical Committee Principles</u> which are Time of grazing, Timing of grazing, and Intensity of grazing, and will be reviewed by the certified planner.	5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner
2	Number of acres/ feet of riparian area within pasture or range land: _____					
3	Number of acres of upland pasture: _____					
4	What percent of the upland pasture is native species? _____ What percent of the upland pasture is re-vegetated species? _____					
5	Do you have a Conservation/Grazing Management Plan? Yes No					
6	When was the grazing plan written? _____					
7	Do you keep accurate records of animal days for each pasture? Yes No					
8	Does the Conservation/Grazing Management Plan and practices prevent significant adverse impact on the waters of the state? Yes No				Consider the impact of soil erosion, water quality, fish and wildlife, riparian health and productivity, etc. If adequate protection does not exist a conservation improvement plan needs to be implemented to meet this objective.	
9	Does the Conservation/Grazing Management Plan and practices protect the riparian, soil and critical wildlife habitat health in your pastures? Yes No					
<b>PUBLIC GRAZED RANGELAND</b>						
1	Number of AUM's on <b>Bureau of Land Management (BLM)</b> land:_____ Type of animals:_____				Grazing plans need to follow the states Grazing Improvement Program <u>(GIP) Technical Committee Principles</u> , which are Time of grazing, Timing of grazing, and Intensity of grazing and will be	
2	Do you have an Allotment Management Plan (AMP)? Yes No When is your AMP/permit up for review? _____					
3	Did you participate in putting the AMP together? Yes No					

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4	Number of AUMs on <b>Forest Service (FS)</b> Land: _____ Type of animals: _____			reviewed by the certified planner.		
5	Do you have an Allotment Management Plan (AMP)? Yes No When is your AMP/permit up for review? _____	/	Certified Planner			5 Year Renewal Owner & Planner
6	Did you participate in putting the AMP together? Yes No					
7	Number of AUM's in <b>National Parks (NP)</b> or <b>National Monuments (NM)</b> : _____ Type of animals: _____					
8	Do you have an Allotment Management Plan (AMP)? Yes No When is your AMP/permit up for review? _____					
9	Did you participate in putting the AMP together? Yes No					
10	Are you managing your grazing practices to be in compliance with the Allotment Management Plan? Yes No				Grazing plans need to follow the states Grazing Improvement Program (GIP) <u>Technical Committee Principles</u> which are Time of grazing, Timing of grazing, and Intensity of grazing, and will be reviewed by the certified planner. Certified Planner will evaluate riparian, soil and wildlife habitat.	
11	Are you implementing time, timing, and intensity of grazing principles as outlined in the Grazing Improvement Program to the extent that is allowed by your Allotment Management Plan(s)? Yes No					
12	Are you implementing grazing practices to protect the riparian, soil and critical wildlife habitat health in your allotment(s)? If not, is it a problem with the land agency support or flexibility in the Allotment Management Plan(s)? Yes No					
13	If threatened or endangered species exist on your land, are efforts being made to promote the survival and protection of these species? Yes No			Certifier Planner should review the list of threatened or endangered species known to be in the area.		

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

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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 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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Local Conservation District \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Third Party Verification \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Approved for Certification*

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