

UDAF

*UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE & FOOD*

2015 ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT



WWW.AG.UTAH.GOV

Commissioner's Message



Utah Agriculture and Food Magazine available online: <http://www.farmflavor.com/us-ag/utah/>

Contact us:

Find phone numbers and more information about UDAF divisions and programs at the web address below:

<http://ag.utah.gov/about-udaf/divisions-and-programs.html>

UDAF main phone number: 801-538-7100

UDAF main informational email: agriculture@utah.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/utahagriculture/

Twitter: www.twitter.com (search @UTagandfood)

LuAnn Adams
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food



As Utah's Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, and a life-long farmer/rancher, I have had the privilege of working with a variety of interests that support our great industry in Utah. I am encouraged that we all seek only the best for this important industry.

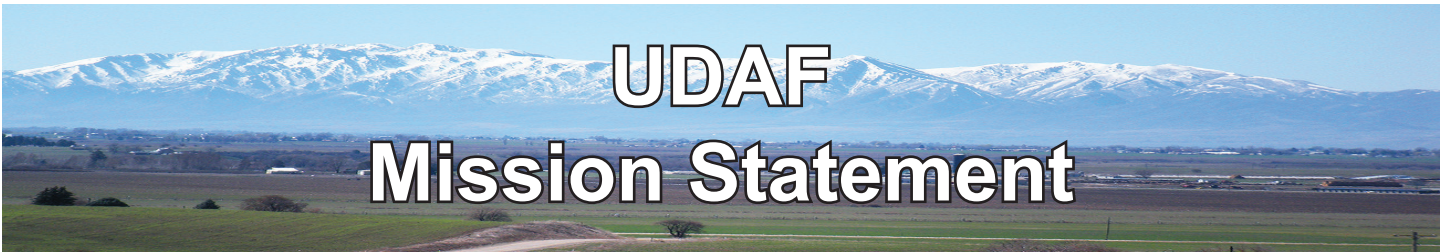
I am especially impressed with our citizen's support for agriculture. A recent survey of more than 50,000 Utahns by Envision Utah showed that nearly 75 percent of us said farming and ranching are critical to the future of our state. I am proud that Utahns said they were willing to make changes to stop the trend of converting farm land and water to new housing and building developments. Utahns also said they are willing to curb their own water use to keep water in agriculture, and they wanted to avoid development that destroy prime farmland.

Utahns like their local food. We have one of the highest percentages of local farms selling directly to consumers. Nationwide about seven percent of farms sell directly to consumers, in Utah 10 percent of our farms sell to local customers through CSA's (community supported agriculture) or outdoor markets.

More than 8 out of 10 consumers say they want their foods to come from within the United States.

Our agency's Utah's Own Program is helping farmers and ranchers by directing consumers to products that are made from locally grown and raised ingredients. We calculate that if Utahns shifted just one percent of their food dollar to purchase Utah grown products instead of national brands, we'd generate \$63 million for our state's economy.

This summary document touches on just some of the highlights and accomplishments of the past year. Read more at: <http://www.ag.utah.gov/documents/annualreport2015web.pdf>



UDAF Mission Statement



The mission of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is to “Promote the healthy growth of Utah agriculture, conserve our natural resources and protect our food supply.”

A safe food supply is the basis for health and prosperity. The Department's **Vision Statement** is: To be the recognized guardian of Utah's food supply and sustainable agriculture.

The Department values:

- Integrity and respect
- Service and hard work
- Stewardship and accountability
- Growth and achievement
- People and partnerships
- Heritage and culture

In carrying out this mission, Department personnel will take specific steps in various areas of the state's agricultural industry, such as the following:

Regulation

Department operations help protect public health and safety as well as agricultural markets by assuring consumers of clean, safe, wholesome, and properly labeled and measured or weighed products. This includes products inspected by UDAF's animal industry, plant industry, weights and measures, food and dairy inspectors, compliance officers and field representatives. It involves chemical analysis by the state laboratory, which is part of the Department. It also includes other consumer products such as bedding, quilted clothing and upholstered furniture.

Conservation

Through its variety of programs in this area, the Department will work to protect, conserve and enhance Utah's agricultural and natural resources, including water and land, and to administer two low-interest revolving loan funds aimed at developing resources and financing new enterprises.

Marketing and Development

UDAF marketing section strengthens Utah's agriculture and allied industries financially by expanding present markets and developing new ones for Utah's agricultural products locally, in the United States, and overseas as well. It also helps develop new products and production methods and promotes in-state processing of Utah agricultural products for a stronger state economy.

Administrative Functions

Commissioner Adams, Deputy Commissioner, Scott Ericson, or other staff as appropriate serve on several statewide agriculture committees, councils and commissions, including Utah Agriculture Advisory Board, Utah Conservation Commission, Utah Horse Racing Commission, and state Farmland Evaluation Advisory Committee.

Other administrative functions and programs of the Department include:

- Communications Office
- Agriculture Mediation program
- Agriculture in the Classroom
- Administrative Services Division

Communications:

The communications office is an important link between the public, industry, employees, and other state agencies.

Communication tools employed by the office include:

- Videos
- Brochures
- Articles and Newsletters
- Web pages
- Displays and presentations
- Social media
- News releases and media events

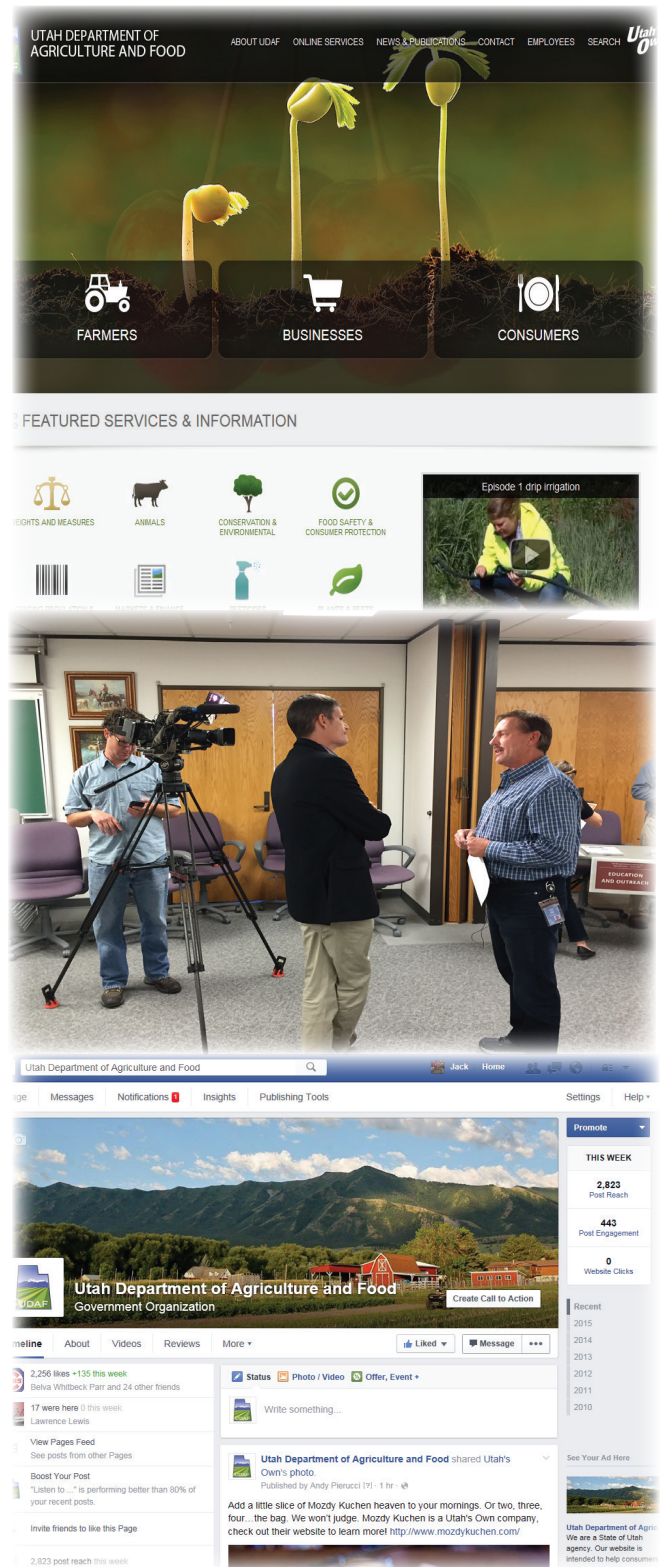
Agriculture Mediation:

UDAF continues to provide services to the agriculture community through its USDA Certified Mediation Program. The program assists farmers and ranchers who face adverse actions in connection with USDA programs. Utah is one of 34 certified programs in the country.

Agriculture in the Classroom:

As people get further removed from the farm and the sources of their food, the AITC program strives to increase agricultural literacy among the state's school students.

Much of the program's resources go into teacher training and providing classroom materials.





The mission of the Animal Industry Division is prevention and control of animal disease through outbreak prevention, monitoring, education and quarantine as necessary. The division also actively engages in livestock brand identification and theft prevention.

The major programs of the division are:

- Animal health
- Meat and poultry inspection
- Livestock inspection
- Fish health
- Elk farming and elk hunting parks
- Veterinary diagnostic labs

Highlights for 2014-2015 include:

Animal Health

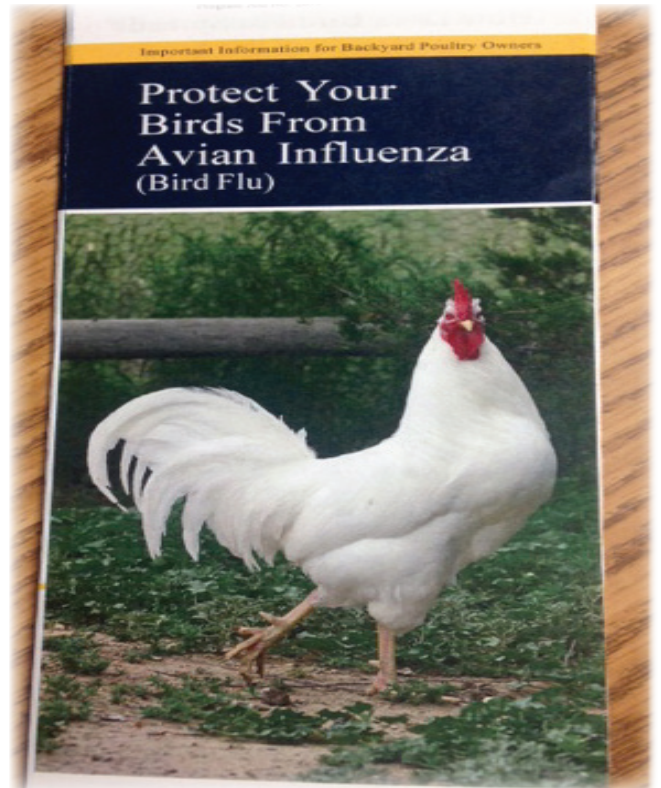
Avian influenza outbreaks in other parts of the US and Canada has put Utah officials on high alert. A strong outreach campaign to industry and backyard bird owners is credited for keeping the disease from spreading to commercial or backyard poultry. Four cases were confirmed in water fowl.

Trichomoniasis and vesicular stomatitis cases were detected, but at lower levels than in previous years, thanks in part to effective quarantines and outreach efforts.

Animal inspections

The Division launched a computer and mobile device software application that allows inspectors to conduct brand inspections and animal health inspections in the field and electronically upload the data to the UDAF offices in real time. Utah is one of the first states using an electronic animal health and brand inspection system.

- During 2014, 786, 073 individual cattle, horse and elk were inspected.
- Nearly 45,000 inspection certificates were issued.
- 3,665 animals were returned to their rightful owners.
- A new brand book and CD has been compiled and will be released in 2016.





Plants and Conservation



The Division of Plant Industry and Conservation ensures consumers disease free and pest free plants, grains, and seeds, as well as properly labeled agricultural commodities, and the safe application of pesticides and farm chemicals.

Plant Regulatory Programs

- Insect control
- Fertilizer and feed
- Seed & grain inspection and testing
- Pesticide applicator licensing and product registration
- Fruit and vegetable inspection and grading
- Plant quarantine & pest survey
- Organic certification and nursery program



Pesticide Enforcement Program

The UDAF pesticide program includes education, licensing and enforcement. Enforcement activities include the following: cancellation and suspension of pesticide products, general compliance monitoring, tracking, sample collection and analysis, ground water and endangered species pesticide enforcement activities, and FIFRA Section 19 (f) enforcement actions.

Etmology Program--Invasive Insect Efforts

Two insects that threaten orchard trees have recently been detected in Utah. The Velvet Longhorn Beetle and the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD).

The Velvet Longhorn Beetle has been detected in Salt Lake and Utah counties. A total of 556 adult specimens have been collected since 2010.

SWD was detected in California in 2008 and spread quickly. It was found at the Utah State University Extension: Kaysville Research Farm in 2010. It feeds on soft skinned fruits including cherries.

Other insects of concern include grasshoppers, Mormon crickets, Africanized honey bees, cereal leaf beetle, gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, European corn borer, red imported fire ant, and emerald ash borer.



A Joint Effort to Protect Honey Bees

In September 2015 the apiary and pesticide programs teamed up to develop a draft Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3). The plan provides information for beekeepers, land owners and pesticide applicators to help protect bees from chemical poisoning.

The division also assists farmers and ranchers in caring for and enhancing Utah's natural resources. The major plant-related conservation programs of the division include:

Conservation Programs:

- Noxious and invasive weeds
- Grazing improvement program
- Conservation commission
- Conservation districts
- Agricultural resource development loan program
- Ag. certificate of environmental stewardship (ACES)

Invasive Species Mitigation (ISM) Program

As part of the noxious weed control program, the Utah Legislature has dedicated funds to combat noxious and invasive weeds throughout Utah. Grants are awarded to projects within specific counties or cooperative weed management areas based on species being addressed and expected effectiveness of a project in preventing increasing encroachment of an invasive species.

The first five years of ISM grant funding have resulted in 120 ISM Projects funded, 17 invasive species treated, and a total of 93,733 acres treated.

Agricultural Resource Development Loans

The UDAF Loan Section manages several loan funds. The largest program in the Loans Section, with 55 percent of its assets and over 500 loans, is the Agricultural Resource Development Loan (ARDL) program. ARDL is administered by the section for the Utah Conservation Commission. Examples of eligible projects include animal waste management, water usage management (irrigation systems and wells), rangeland improvement, on farm energy projects, wind erosion control, and disaster mitigation and cleanup. ARDL Interest rates are fixed at 3.00%, 2.75% or 2.50% based on the amount of the loan. A term of either 7 or 15 years will be determined by the type of collateral taken to secure the loan. A four percent administration fee is added to the loan amount and covers marketing and project planning costs.





Food and Product Safety



Protecting the safety and integrity of the food supply is one of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's (UDAF) core functions. The Regulatory Services Division takes that responsibility very seriously. The division's regulatory functions go beyond food. The main programs of the division are:

- Consumer protection
- Weights and measures
- Dairy and egg farm inspections
- Food establishment inspections
- Food labeling and food safety compliance
- Bedding, quilted clothing and upholstered furniture



Food Establishment Inspections

The UDAF Food Program functions as a regulatory agency and therefore has many tools to protect the consumers and promote agriculture.

- The Program has 4,143 registered food facilities.
- Inspectors completed 4,164 inspections in 2014.
- Priority violations resulted in voluntary destructions and hold orders involving 166,205 pounds of food for a total of \$134,878.



Farmers Markets

Along with periodic inspections at outdoor markets, Division staff continue to team up with UDAF Marketing staff and local health departments to provide regional Market Coordinator trainings. The goal is to educate coordinators so that they can play a vital role in food safety at their own markets.

Meat Compliance

The meat compliance program completed 521 meat reviews across the state. Meat reviews are conducted at State assigned food establishments in order to verify inspected sources and proper labeling. These retail meat facilities are also audited regarding any hotel, restaurant or institution accounts which may fall under their retail exemptions.



The Laboratory Services Division operates as a service for various divisions within the Department of Agriculture and Food. The division laboratories provide chemical, physical, and microbiological analyses of dairy, meat, and other agricultural and food products. All samples analyzed in the laboratories are collected and forwarded by various field inspectors from the divisions of Plant Industry and Conservation, Regulatory Services, and Animal Health. Most of these samples are tested for specific ingredients as stated by the associated label guarantee. Some products are also examined for the presence of undesirable materials and contaminants. Specific labs include:

- Dairy testing laboratory
- Meat Laboratory
- Pesticide residue laboratory
- Feed and fertilizer laboratory

Also, commercial feed samples for livestock and pets are tested by the division, and special consumer complaint samples are examined for the presence of undesirable materials.

Dairy Testing Laboratory

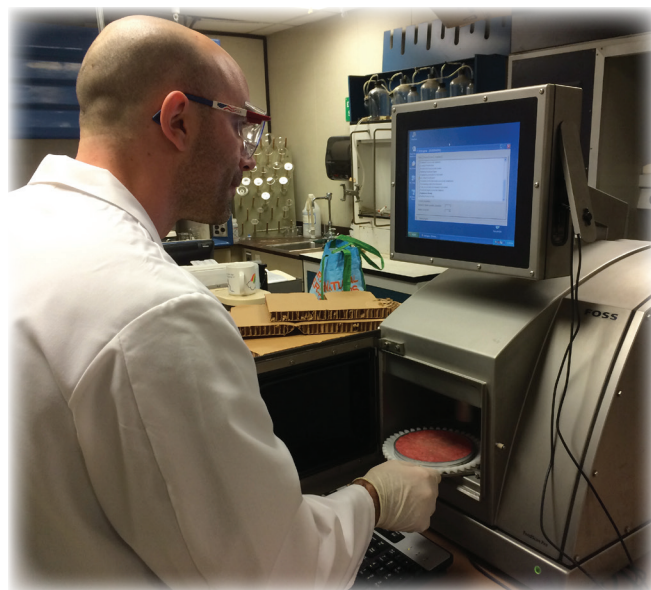
The dairy testing lab is responsible for testing Grade-A milk and dairy products, including pre-pasteurized milk (raw for pasteurization) as well as finished dairy products. The laboratory also administers an industry laboratory certification program.

Meat Laboratory

The Meat Laboratory analyzes meat and meat product samples obtained during inspections of plant and processing facilities in Utah. Tests are performed to measure fat, moisture, protein, sulfites, and added non-meat products to ensure label compliance of these products.

Significant Events

- The Dairy Testing Laboratory was granted renewal of full status of accreditation for all applicable procedures by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation.
- A groundbreaking was held for a new multi-agency laboratory building that will house the UDAF Division of Laboratory Services.





Marketing & Economic Development



The Marketing and Economic Development Division “promotes the healthy growth of Utah agriculture, conserves our natural resources and protects our food supply.” The Division oversees several programs including:

- Local marketing/Utah's Own
- Domestic Marketing
- International marketing
- Market news reporting
- Junior Livestock shows

Local Marketing:

The forefront of the local marketing initiative at UDAF is the Utah's Own Program. The major focus is to increase awareness and demand for Utah food and agriculture products. Utah's Own is designed to create a consumer culture of purchasing products made and grown in Utah. It is estimated that if each Utahn spent an additional 1% of their grocery budget on Utah products, it would have a multiplier on the Utah economy of about \$60 million. This past year the program concentrated on expanding public awareness of Utah's Own brand and companies.

- 13 regional Utah's Own Summits were held in Utah
- Five regional trainings were held in 2015
- Seven local Utah's Own Chapters were formed
- 50 Utah's Own companies participated in the Nicholas and Company Food show
- More than 25 companies participated in the two-day Taste of Utah event at the Utah State Fair



Market News Reporting

Accurate, unbiased commodity price information is critical to agriculture producers and agribusinesses, especially in decision making. The Division monitors livestock auctions in Cedar City, Salina, Ogden, and Logan on a weekly basis. The market news reporter also compiles current hay sales information from alfalfa hay buyers and sellers weekly, which is disseminated through the Department's website, print media, radio broadcast, and call-in service.



The Utah Wildlife Services Program is a cooperative effort between the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The focus of the program is to protect livestock, primarily adult sheep, lambs and calves from predators, including:

- Coyotes
- Cougars
- Bears
- Ravens

With the program in place, calf loss from coyotes is less than 1%. Without the program, 5% loss or more would be expected.

Sheep and lamb losses from coyote, cougar and bear is estimated to be 30% or more without the program. As it is, predation losses of sheep and lamb are less than 5% statewide.

Wildlife Services also plays a critical role in early detection and management of wildlife-borne diseases. Wildlife Services is conducting surveillance for early detection and response to highly pathogenic Avian Influenza. The program also assisted the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources remove and test mule deer where there is potential transmission of Chronic Wasting Disease. In 2015, WS staff trapped, banded, and relocated more than 1,100 raptors from Utah airports to prevent them from being struck by aircraft and threatening human safety.

Wildlife Services also provides technical assistance and training to the public about problems related to urban wildlife such as skunks, raccoons, birds and other animals. WS continues to conduct disease monitoring in the urban program and responds to human safety cases involving cougars or bears statewide when assistance is requested by the UDWR.



