

Financial Accountability - July2022 to Sept 2022 (FY2023)

Total Expenditures to Date: \$59,241

Personal Services: \$57,173

In-State Travel: \$832

Current Expenses: \$643

DP Expenses: \$593

Program Activities

Engagement Activities

One on One Technical Assistance

One on one technical assistance includes activities of the soil health program staff meeting with individual farmers and ranchers discussing their individual operations and how to implement soil health in those settings. Staff also share information on available federal, state and local resources and assistance.

One on One Technical Assistance	July 2022 to Oct 2022 (FY2023)	Programs Lifetime (Sept 2021 - Oct 2022)
Individuals Contacted	39	74
Estimated Acres Represented	286 ac	36,183 ac
Number of Counties Served	6	14

Counties Served:

Box Elder County

Cache County

Carbon County

Duchesne County

Grand County

Kane County

Millard County

Morgan County

Piute County

Salt Lake County

Sanpete County

Utah County

Washington County

Weber County

Workshops and Field Days

Workshops and Field Day activities include both Soil health Program hosted events along with other events by other partners and organizations that the Soil Health Program as a presenter. Presentation activities would include demonstration of soil health principles activities such as the rainfall simulator or no-till drill setup. Partners included USU extension, Local Conservation Districts, Schools, Local Non-profits, and Private Business.

Events to date have included the first of its kind in the region, the “ Soil Health in the West Conference and Beginners Workshop”.

Workshops and Field Days	July 2022 to Oct 2022 (FY2023)	Programs Lifetime (Sept 2021 - Oct 2022)
Number of Events	5	11
Number of Participants	123	703
Number of Counties Served	4	8

Counties Served:

Washington
Grand
Garfield
Summit
Utah

Summit
Box Elder
Morgan
Uinta

List of Workshops / Field Days

- Soil Health in the West Conference
- Soil Health in the West - Beginner Workshop
- Grand County Conservation District Small Farm Soil Health Workshop
- Panguitch Mini Soil Health Workshop
- 3 Spring Land and Livestock Field Day
- Timp-Nebo CD AgVIP & Soil Health Field Day
- Soil Health Field Day for Policy and Administors
- Cover Crop Demo Day - United Ag Solutions
- Cover Crop Field Day - Utah Seed
- Morgan Conservation District Grill Your District Meeting
- Soil Health and Water Optimization Field Day - Uintah Basin

Presentations / Panels

Engagement with the public included presentations about the importance of soil health on the general public. Presentations on the program were given at federal and state level meetings with various agencies and partnership organizations. Staff participated in panel discussion providing expertise in soils the importance it has for Utah agriculture industry as well as impacts on water and air quality, such panels included Utah Conservation Climate Summit.

Workshops and Field Days	July 2022 to Oct 2022 (FY2023)	Programs Lifetime (Sept 2021 - Oct 2022)
Number of Events	2	5
Number of Participants	80	118

Media Efforts

The Soil Health Program has been working with the marketing division of UDAF to film soil health projects and activities along the state as well as develop marketing materials that can be used on social media platforms and other outlets to increase awareness of the program and its benefits. Additionally the program has filmed our rainfall simulator demonstration to be used for educational purposes online. The Utah Soil Health Partnership has been hosting a website that provides educational information and resources about soil health including presentations from our workshops and conferences. The soil health program assists in producing content for the website and in its overall management.

Total hours of video filmed: 1hr 50 mins

Total number of online videos: 43

Total number of hours viewed online: 3.745 hrs

Projects and Grant Funding

Current Projects and Grants

The following projects and grant funds have been acquired either directly by the Soil Health Program or in partnership with other entities. All projects are designed to meet the objectives of the Soil Health Program.

Additionally the Soil Health Program staff is working to provide one on one soil health field assessments to any producer in the state seeking technical assistance, this includes evaluating the producers field using our in-field assessment process, assisting in collecting soil samples for testing. Recommendations on what types of soil tests, and even the development of a soil health plan that identifies resource concerns and potential practices that can be implemented to address those concerns.

- The Soil Health Partnership in it is the first year of a \$3.5 million in grant funds to support soil health efforts across the state, including a Conservation Innovation Grant from the NRCS totalling more than \$1.7 million for the next five years. 16 On-farm demonstration sites have been selected and are preparing to start implementation of soil health particles this fall. The 16 demo-site participants operate over 8600 acres combined.

Counties with demonstration sites:

Duchesne	Weber	Millard
Wasatch	Salt Lake	Piute
Rich	Cache	Seiver
Box Elder	Garfield	Sanpete
Juab	San Juan	
Tooele	Iron	

- The Soil Health Program has begun Collaborating with the Agriculture Voluntary Incentive Program (AgVIP) and the NRCS to help producers utilize soil health practices to improve nutrient management planning, potentially reducing the need for expensive infrastructure projects. Currently working with the AgVIP to provide requested soil health technical assistance to over 22 of its current CNMP Contracts.
- The Soil Health Program has assisted Conservation Districts in Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Morgan, Seiver and Weber counties with an interseeding cover crop project designed to mitigate issues with high phosphorus fields with the DEQ Nonpoint Source Program. This included securing over \$97,000 in grant funding to purchase interseeding equipment, cover crop seed and monitoring activities such as soil testing.

Summary of Current Soil Health Projects and Grant Funding

Project	Description	Total Project	Grant Money
District Interseeders	Building of two 6 row Inteerseiders for use in Box Elder and Sevier Counties	\$90,000.00	\$70,000.00
NPS - Mitigating Phosphorus Grant	Using cover crops to reduce phosphorus loads on fields that have had over application of manure	\$54,200.00	\$27,500.00
Soil Health Planner NUCD	Hiring a full-time soil health planner to work in the Tremonton NRCS for the Northern Utah CD to promote soil health programs and conduct evaluations of current and past NRCS Soil Health Projects	\$76,000.00	\$75,000.00
NPS - Clarkston / Newton Soil Health Project	Watershed focused soil health project to increase the adoption of soil health practices in the area. Includes monitoring to understand the effects on soil moisture	\$43,602.39	\$34,602.30
Enhanced Soil Carbon farming - USU Soil Testing Grant	USU grant to measure soil health indicators on farms implementing soil health practices and relate soil test results to soil health management. Partnership with UDAF to assist in program outreach.	\$750,000.00	\$375,000.00
CIG- Soil Health On-Farm Trails	Setting up 16 On-farm demonstration sites to help promote soil health, conduct research and serve as outreach and education	\$3,269,087.00	\$2,210,288.00
Total		\$4,282,319.39	\$2,792,390.30

Soil Health Advisory Committee

The Soil Health Advisory Committee has been formed and officially met six times since being formed in 2021. The following individuals currently serve on the committee.

Zone 1

Braden McMurdie – Northern
Utah CD
Calee Garn – Northern Utah CD

Zone 2

Bruce Clark – Morgan CD
Alisa Meyer – Shambip CD

Zone 3

McKinley Smoot – Kamas Valley
CD

Zone 4

Trevor Barnson – Piute CD

Zone 5

Arlan Mayer – Twin M CD
Brent Hunter – E&I CD

Zone 6

Steve Forbes – Daggett CD

Technical experts from the NRCS, Utah State University (USU) Extension, Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD), Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Farm Bureau, and UDAF have been invited to assist in this committee.

The committee has provided technical advice on the program activities around the state including review of all of the 39 applications for the CIG On-farm Soil Health trials. Assisting in planning of engagement activities. Setting priorities for the program efforts, suggestions for future projects.

UDAF is recommending that the committee term of service be changed from 2 year to 4 year terms, to reduce the effort needed to keep the committee full and functional as well as provide adequate time for committee members to effectively serve.

Recommendations:

1. The soil health advisory committee recognized soil health as a key component of the water cycle in the state of Utah and recommended soil health should be included in discussions related to water optimization water quality, drought preparation, and drought resilience and watershed health
2. The soil health advisory committee recommends Utah Soil Health Partnership seek legislature funding for engagement / outreach effort for \$100,000 for five years. The funds will be utilized for supporting engagement efforts such as Soil Health in the West Conference, and local workshops.
3. The soil health advisory committee recommends funding efforts for equipment that is essential to increase soil health, such as no-till drills.

Program Priorities:

- Engagement and education of farmers and ranchers in the principles of soil health using demonstration tools such as the rainfall simulator and slake test.
- Provide technical assistance to producers on an individual basis, including performing in-field soil health assessments. Development of soil health plans with recommendations on implementing practices per a producer's request.
- Seek funding to implement new technologies to better implement soil health principles and practices, such as virtual fencing for grazing management, or interseeding of cover crops into row crops.
- Seek understand the impacts of soil health on water quantity and drought mitigation, including water use of cover crops.
- Development of engagement efforts related to soil health and livestock / grazing on Utah's pastures and rangelands.