

## Financial Accountability - July2022 to June 2023 (FY2023)

### Total Expenditures to Date: \$337,191.32

Personal Services: \$274,443.32

In-State Travel: \$8,841.83

Out of State Travel: \$2,217.06

Current Expenses: \$9,669.83

DP Expenses: \$3,603.64

## 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 and encourage producers to apply for available programs.

<b>One on One Technical Assistance</b>	<b>July 2022 to June 2023 (FY2023)</b>	<b>Programs Lifetime (Sept 2021 - June 2023)</b>
Individuals Contacted	39	74
Estimated Acres Represented	37,199 ac	73,043 ac
Number of Counties Served	21	24
Number of Application Generated	25	32

#### Counties Served in FY23:

Box Elder	Salt Lake
Cache	San Juan
Davis	Sanpete
Duchesne	Summit
Emery	Tooele
Garfield	Utah
Kane	Wasatch
Millard	Washington
Morgan	Wayne
Piute	Weber

### **Workshops, Field Days, Presentations, and Public Outreach**

Workshops and Field Day activities include both Soil health Program hosted events, along with other events hosted by other partners and organizations that the Soil Health Program was a presenter. 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, Private Business, and Others.

<b>Workshops and Field Days</b>	<b>July 2022 to June 2023(FY2023)</b>	<b>Programs Lifetime (Sept 2021 - June 2023)</b>
Number of Events	33	45
Number of Participants	1905	2571
Number of Counties Served	21	22

#### **Counties Served in FY 2023:**

Box Elder	Grand	Sanpete
Cache	Iron	Summit
Carbon	Kane	Uintah
Daggot	Morgan	Wasatch
Davis	Piute	Washington
Duchesne	Salt Lake	Wayne
Garfield	San Juan	Weber

#### **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. Additionally program staff have been interviewed on local radio stations and in podcasts discussing the importance of soils and promoting programs offerings.

Total hours of video filmed: 1hr 50 mins

Total number of online videos: 43

Total number of hours viewed online: 3.745 hrs

**Number of Radio / Podcast / Newspaper Interviews in FY 23: 3**

**In-Field Soil Health Assessments**

Starting Oct 2022 the program started to offer Utah producers a free In-Field Soil Health Assessment to help them evaluate the current condition of the health of their soil. A program staff member conducts a series of tests on the individual farm site and provides them with a customized report of the field soil health and some recommended practices to address any identified areas of concern. Additionally staff provide current assistance programs and resources available to implement soil health practices.

<b>In-Field Soil Health Assessments</b>	<b>July 2022 to June 2023(FY2023)</b>	<b>Programs Lifetime (Sept 2021 - June 2023)</b>
# of In-field Soil Health Assessment Requests	77	77
Number of Counties Served	22	22

**Counties Served in FY 2023:**

Box Elder	Kane	Utah
Cache	Millard	Wasatch
Carbon	Piute	Washington
Duchesne	Salt Lake	Wayne
Emery	San Juan	Weber
Garfield	Sanpete	
Iron	Summit	
Juab	Toelle	

# 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 is in its second year of the Utah Soil Health Network project ( \$3.5 million grant) to support soil health efforts across the state. 17 On-farm demonstration sites have been established and are implementation of soil health practices. All sites have had in depth soil testing, in-field assessments to establish a baseline for comparison over the life of the project.

### 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.
- 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

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Project</b>	<b>Grant Money</b>
District Interseeders	Building of two 6 row Inteerseders for use in Box Elder and Sevier Counties. <b>Project Completed in end of 2022</b>	\$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. <b>Project Completed in Mid 2023</b>	\$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
Utah Lake Virtual Fencing - Soil Health Grazing	Working with 4-5 Producers and 500 head in the Utah Lake Watershed to protect water quality and improve soil health with managed grazing using virtual fence technology	\$191,500.00	\$149,500.00
USBI - Delta Biochar Project	Addition of biochar to compost / chicken litter application to alfalfa fields. Looking at the impact of biochar and compost soil amendments on soil health and water use	\$29,000.00	\$20,000.00
Agricultural Soil Health Outreach Program (AgSHOP) - <b>PENDING FUNDING</b>	5-year soil health outreach project including conferences, workshops, and field days. Outreach efforts focused on tribal and urban agricultural groups. Hiring of a soil health focused marketing assistant.	\$895,068.00	\$549,935.00
Educating and Feeding the Community through Innovative Urban Agriculture - WCG Project - UAIPG - <b>PENDING FUNDING</b>	4 Phase project over 3 years to move current farming site and facilities and establish a new WCG farm site that will be used to build an urban agriculture incubator program training new farmers as well as a demonstration site of soil health practices in the urban farming system to be used for training of field staff and the public.	\$1,555,107.00	\$331,686.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6,952,994.39</b>	<b>\$4,035,011.00</b>

# 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

Kristen Knapp - Salt Lake CD

## **Zone 4**

Matt Goble - Sanpete CD  
Trevor Barnson – Piute CD

## **Zone 5**

TBD

## **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, HEAL Utah, Red Acre Center, Utah Food Coalition, Wasatch Community gardens, and UDAF have participated in the committee meetings

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. The Committee is currently serving as the ranking committee for the upcoming Soil Health Equipment Grant that will be released in FY24.

## **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.