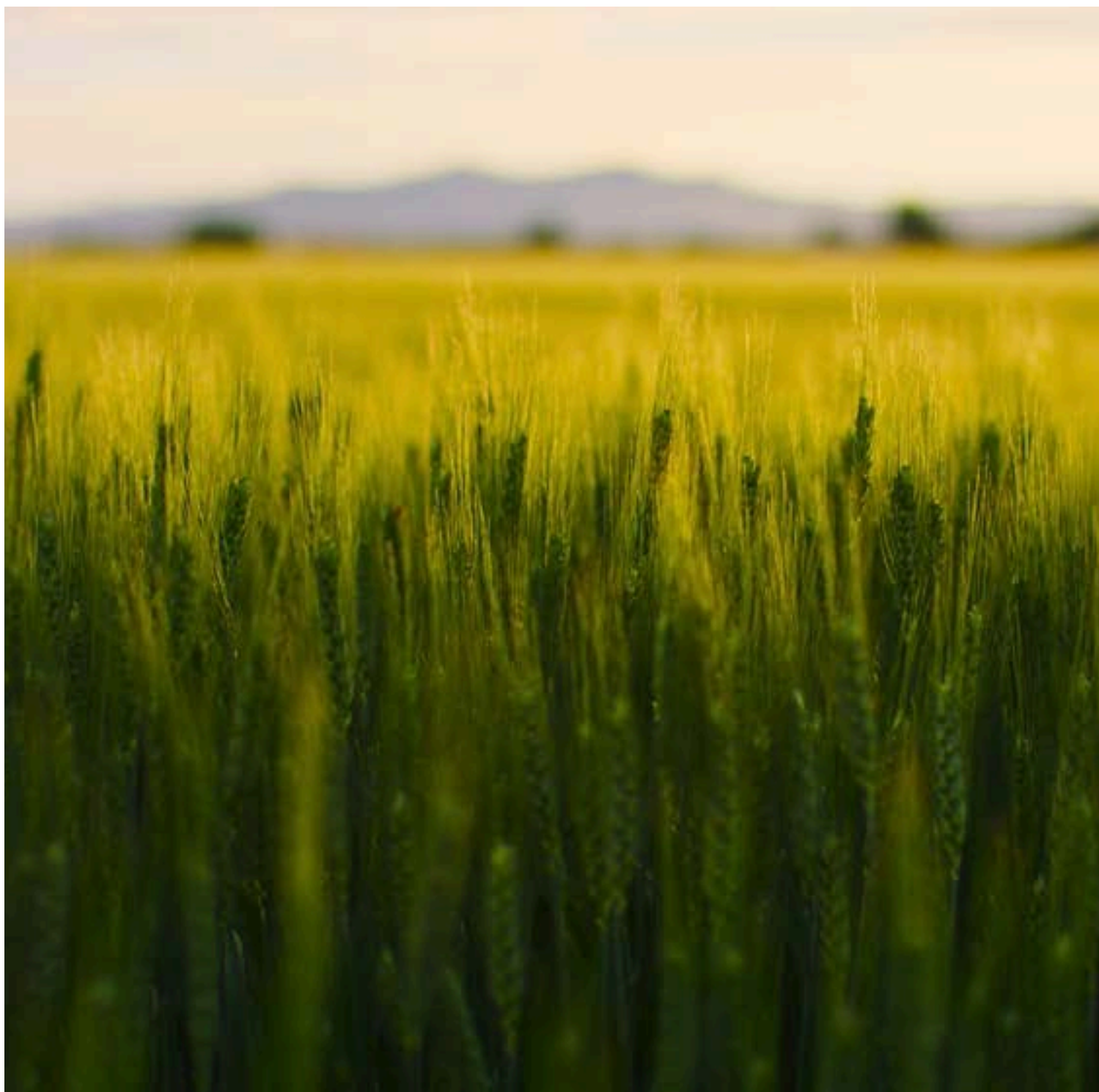


UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD



2023 UTAH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS AND ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT





MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

For over a century, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has worked with farmers, ranchers, and state and local partners to ensure the prosperity of Utah agriculture and food industries and a safe, robust food supply for citizens of our beautiful state.

In the last few years, agricultural land preservation has become a top priority for the Department and is critical to maintaining a safe and abundant local food supply. During the 2023 Legislative Session, UDAF received a \$3,000,000 appropriation for the LeRay McAllister Working Farm and Ranch Fund- a program that provides grants to preserve or restore critical open or agricultural land in Utah. We hope to acquire additional funding for this program in the future and look forward to continued efforts to strengthen our food system.

Many UDAF programs share the common theme of proactivity. We believe being proactive is the best way to conserve and protect our state's natural resources, and it's been no different for our Agricultural Water Optimization Program. The Agricultural Water Optimization Program continues to work with producers to help them optimize water use while maintaining or improving agriculture production. We are grateful to have been appropriated \$20 million during the 2023 legislative session for this program and are excited to work with our state's farmers to get these projects running.

UDAF recognizes the challenges farmers and ranchers face on a daily basis as they work endlessly to provide fresh and quality food for our great State. This is why in 2023 we created the Ag Stress Assistance Program in partnership with USU Extension AgWellness. The purpose of this program is to provide free behavioral and mental healthcare for Utah's farmers, ranchers, and their families. We look forward to seeing the impact this program has on our producers.

Thank you for your interest in and support of Utah agriculture. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if we can be helpful in any way.

Craig W Buttars,
Utah Department of
Agriculture and Food
Commissioner



ABOUT THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

With roots dating to 1921, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is one of the state's oldest agencies. UDAF oversees dozens of legislatively mandated programs that strengthen the economic wellbeing of the state's agriculture and food producers, improve the health of our rangelands and watersheds, and protect consumers. With responsibilities encompassing animal health, food and animal feed safety, monitoring for reliable weights and measures and label compliance, invasive species mitigation, laboratory analysis, conservation efforts, and the promotion of local food and agriculture businesses via the Utah's Own program — the work of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food impacts nearly every aspect of daily life.

OUR VISION:

To lead Utah towards self-reliance by preserving, promoting, and protecting all forms of agricultural production and processing to ensure a safe and abundant supply of locally-produced food.

OUR MISSION:

To support the development of Utah's agriculture and food industries, serve as a steward of our natural resources, safeguard public health, protect consumers, and ensure a quality food supply.

OUR VALUES:

- Accountability
- Customer Service
- Guardianship
- Leadership
- Professionalism
- Relationships
- Stewardship



UDAF DIVISIONS

► OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Ensures all divisions work to meet statutory responsibilities. Includes the Agricultural Mediation Program, Grazing Improvement Program, and the Office of Internal Audit.

► ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Provides support to all divisions within the Department to ensure state policies and procedures are implemented to meet both internal and external audit standards.

► ANIMAL INDUSTRY

Ensures the health and productivity of Utah livestock, poultry, and aquaculture, preserves industry commerce, and protects human health. Includes the Animal Health, Aquaculture, Brand Inspection, Domestic Elk, Meat and Poultry Inspection, and Predator Control programs.

► CONSERVATION

Preserves and protects Utah's soil and water resources and ensures proper development and utilization through grant and loan programs which help the agriculture community achieve goals for productivity, efficiency, and environmental stewardship. Includes the Agriculture Resource Development (ARDL) Program, Agricultural Voluntary Incentives Program (AgVIP), Soil Health Program, and Water Optimization Program.

► GRAZING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Improves the productivity, health, and sustainability of our rangelands and watersheds by assisting producers with livestock grazing management practices.

► LABORATORY ANALYTICS

Provides analytical services to the other divisions within the Department and provides chemical, physical, and microbiological analyses for a wide variety of products to protect the state's consumers and agricultural industries.

► MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Provides communications support to all divisions and economic development support to Utah's agriculture and food businesses. Includes the Utah's Own program, Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, Farm to School, International Trade Program, and UDAF Communications.

► MEDICAL CANNABIS AND INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Ensures safety, compliance, and equity to the medical cannabis and industrial hemp industries by monitoring Utah's processors and retail establishments. This program ensures consumer safety and product integrity by approving products prior to entering the Utah market and verifying through inspections that safety and label standards are met.

► PLANT INDUSTRY

Ensures disease and pest-free plants, grains, and seeds; properly labeled agricultural commodities, the safe application of pesticides and farm chemicals, and assists farmers and ranchers in caring for and enhancing Utah's natural resources.

► REGULATORY SERVICES

Protects public health and promotes fair and equitable trade of commodities through food, product, weights and measures oversight. Includes the Bedding, Upholstered Furniture, and Quilted Clothing; Dairy Compliance, Manufactured and Retail Foods, Kratom, Utah Produce Safety, and Weights and Measures Programs.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Office of the Commissioner is the executive office of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and ensures all divisions work to meet statutory responsibilities.

AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Utah Agricultural Mediation Program (UAMP) mediates agricultural disputes between farmers and ranchers and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) throughout the state. This program is administered by UDAF and has been certified by the USDA. UAMP is a voluntary mediation program created in keeping with the provision of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, Title 5 "State Mediation Programs."

OFFICE OF INTERNAL AUDIT

The Office of Internal Audit (OIA) was newly created in 2021. This office exists to help the Department accomplish its objectives by providing independent objective analysis, evaluations, and recommendations of the Department's operations. The vision of the OIA is to become a trusted advisor that assists the Department in its progression to improve and safeguard all its divisions, programs, and processes.

UTAH FOOD SECURITY PROCESSING GRANT

In the 2022 legislative session, UDAF was awarded \$1 million for the Utah Food Security Processing Grant Pilot Program. The funds were released in FY23 awarding 15 companies grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$150,000 to increase the local processing capacity and consumer availability of locally producers agricultural products.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Division of Administrative Services provides support to all divisions within the department to insure state policies and procedures are implemented to meet audits conducted throughout the year by state finance and the state auditor's offices. The division manages an expanding range of federal and state grants. This division includes Financial Services and Homeland Security and Risk Management.

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

The focus of the Animal Industry Division is the 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 as well as oversees the Utah Horse Racing Commission.

MAJOR PROGRAMS

- ▶ ANIMAL HEALTH
- ▶ DOMESTIC ELK
- ▶ MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION
- ▶ AQUACULTURE
- ▶ LIVESTOCK BRAND INSPECTION
- ▶ PREDATOR CONTROL

AQUACULTURE PROGRAM

The Aquaculture, or Fish Health, Program promotes the practice of private fish farming in order to augment food production, expand employment, and promote economic development while protecting both the private industry and the public fisheries from aquatic animal diseases.

There are 52 licensed facilities: 40 fee fishing and 12 aquaculture.

FY23 Imported Live Aquatic Animal	
Wiper	2,445,000
Fathead Minow	230,000
Bluegill	172,000
Channel Catsifh	18,450
Boreal Toads	1,020

FY23 Imported Aquatic Animal Eggs	
Arctic Grayling	180,000
Cutthroat Trout	320,000
Rainbow Trout	218,200
Total	1,637,630

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

ANIMAL HEALTH

The Animal Health Program oversaw several disease outbreaks in FY23 and increased preparedness for disaster and emergency animal disease response.

Diseases seen in FY2023 include:

- American and European Foulbrood
- Brucella Ovis
- Equine herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy
- Equine West Nile Virus
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease
- Trichomoniasis

Advances in Information Management:

UDAF continues to work with the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, other laboratories, veterinarians, and producers to facilitate the electronic submission of data. The UDAF Animal Health Program received funding to provide RFID readers and training to elk producers to improve inventory management. The program is working with the company developing the mobile brand inspection application to allow inventory management and easier capture of RFID tags for brand inspections.

FY2023 ANIMAL HEALTH EXPORTS

- **CVIs:** 9,468
- **Total Animals:** 401,554
- **Cattle:** 273,662
- **Pigs:** 84,676
- **Sheep:** 26,148
- **Horses:** 10,833 (+209 extended equine CVIs)

FY2023 ANIMAL HEALTH IMPORTS

- **CVIs:** 11,975
- **Total Animals:** 7,577,996
- **Poultry:** 7,132,258
- **Pigs:** 4,590
- **Cattle:** 64,822
- **Sheep:** 8,308
- **Horses:** 5,736 (+295 EECVIs)



ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK

Management of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in commercial, exhibition, and backyard poultry:

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza was diagnosed in 29 backyard poultry flocks, exhibitions, or commercial poultry facilities in 2022, resulting in the death or depopulation of 2.2 million poultry. UDAF worked with other government agencies including the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA Wildlife Services, and others to manage the outbreak and monitor responders and farm personnel. UDAF staff performed depopulation, disposal, and recovery activities, as well as permitting movement of birds and products from non-infected premises.



Front Row L-R: Jason Clarke, David Deng, Adell Young, Amber Brown, Leann Hunting, Bailee Woolstenhulme, Zach Brook, Leilani Wong, and Noel McSpadden

Back Row L-R: Elliot Hodson, Owner of Ritewood Farms Mark Woodward, Dr. Dean Taylor, Miland Kofford, Talisha Bacon, Brett Montgomery, Dallas Ware, Travis Waller, Willam Rigby, Commissioner Craig Buttars, Phil Crowther, Governor Spencer J. Cox, Garrick Hall, Thayne Mickelson, Joseph May, Jason Noble, Amanda Petersen, Dr. Amanda Price, Jim Bowcutt, and Justine Wilson

Not pictured: Landen Kidd, James Burton, Robert Erickson, Deputy Commissioner Kelly Pehrson, Caroline Hargraves, Layne Robinson, Rodney Roueche, Jessica Coats, Sarah Allen, Shannon Jaworski, Hannah Freeze, Jace Farnsworth, and Nick Reithel.

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

BRAND INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Livestock Inspection Bureau protects Utah’s Livestock Industry by providing a quality, cost-efficient, timely, and courteous service to the livestock producers of the state. The program is built to protect the cattle and horse industry from theft by verification of ownership and denying a market for potential thieves. The program aids in the recovery and return of missing and estray livestock to their rightful owners.

2023 Data	
Full-time Brand Inspectors	11
Part-time Brand Inspectors	35
Full-time livestock Theft Investigator	1
Inspection Certificates Issued	28,372
Head of Cattle Inspected	270,343
Head of Horses Inspected	8,085
Head of Sheep Inspected	742
Head of Domesticated Elk Inspection	3,650
Registered Brands and earmarks	13,023

DOMESTIC ELK PROGRAM

The Domestic Elk Program oversees the importation, possession, and transportation of domesticated elk into the state. Inspections and inventories are performed on facilities yearly. Tracking animals is vital to the prevention and mitigation of disease outbreaks. Our producer’s willingness and cooperation to follow and adhere to the program standards have made the program run seamlessly.

This year, the second year completing physical inventories, has reached nearly 100 percent reconciliation. All farms and ranches have either met or exceeded the 95 percent minimum standard of reconciliation. This reconciliation achievement shows how much effort our producers are putting into their operations.



ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Meat and Poultry Inspection Program is considered “equal to” the Federal Meat Inspection Program. They currently have 4 State harvesting plants, 9 State harvesting and processing plants, and 8 State processing-only plants, with 2 Talmadge Aiken (T/A) harvesting plants, 4 T/A harvesting and processing plants, and 11 T/A processing-only plants, giving a total of 38 official establishments. The program also has 57 custom-exempt plants and 37 Farm Custom Slaughter permittees (Tri-Pod mobile Harvesting rigs) for a total of 94 establishments throughout Utah.

UDAF’s Meat and Poultry Inspection Program (MPIP) consists of 29 meat inspection staff members who oversaw 132 operations. The Meat and Poultry program inspected and passed 54,099 animals for human consumption, performed 1,166 animals and carcasses dispositions, and verified over 27,178 inspection tasks that ensure the establishments are producing safe, unadulterated, and properly labeled products during FY2023.



UDAF Meat and Poultry Inspection Program Manager, Noel McSpadden (pictured far right) at Beaver Valley Pack during an inspection in January 2023

CONSERVATION DIVISION

The conservation programs within the Conservation Division work to sustain Utah’s agricultural lands and protect the state’s natural resources. The Division works with local, state, federal and private entities to identify resource concerns specific to each area of the state. Management plans are often established to determine how to address those resource concerns. Once these plans are developed, UDAF conservation planners work with the local landowners, providing technical assistance and making them aware of funding opportunities to implement projects on their operations. When implemented correctly, conservation work can result in improved natural resources, while increasing agricultural production for producers, ultimately improving the quality of life for all the residents here in the great State of Utah.

MAJOR PROGRAMS

- ▶ **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT LOAN (ARDL) PROGRAM**
- ▶ **AGRICULTURAL VOLUNTARY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (AGVIP)**
- ▶ **AGRICULTURAL WATER OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM**
- ▶ **LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM**
- ▶ **SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM**
- ▶ **UTAH SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM**
- ▶ **UTAH CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**
- ▶ **UTAH POLLINATOR PROGRAM**

Many of these programs have been in existence since the 1970’s, and continue to be effective at improving wildlife habitat, water conservation, water quality, and plant communities, all while improving the efficiency of the operations of agricultural operations. The Conservation Division consists of 44 employees stationed throughout the state. In FY23 these employees managed 627 contracts from various programs totaling \$78,030,489.

CONSERVATION DIVISION

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

There are 38 Conservation Districts throughout Utah. These districts focus on reducing soil erosion but also address other important resource concerns such as improving water quality and wildlife habitat, conserving water, eradicating invasive weeds, and other issues that could potentially impact the natural resources in the state. The board members of each conservation district are appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food and serve for a two-year term.

In FY23, the local Conservation Districts sponsored 104 outreach events, with 21,523 people attending those events. These events included field days, where the Districts and other state and federal agencies educated K-12 children about the importance of agriculture and natural resources across the State of Utah. It also included dinners that were used to educate other landowners about conservation practices that they could implement on their property.

The local conservation districts have always advocated for soil health and soil management. There are currently 18 pieces of equipment that the districts rent out to help producers implement more effective tillage practices. In FY23 this equipment accounted for 10,518 acres of improved tillage practices throughout the state. Local Districts also take an active role in the treatment of invasive weeds, treating over 8,897 acres for various invasive species throughout the state.

AGRICULTURAL VOLUNTARY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (AGVIP)

AgVIP has proven to be an effective mechanism to improve water quality, and educate agricultural producers about the benefits of the proper application of nutrients on the crops. This program develops nutrient management plans for producers, then pays them a \$12 per acre incentive payment for every acre they have enrolled in the program for a three-year period. In FY23, 65 producers enrolled in the program, covering 47,301 acres. When AgVIP began, the overall goal was to enroll 50,000 acres in the program. With the FY23 applications, this goal was surpassed bringing the total acres enrolled to 66,613. During FY23 the AgVIP program received 30 new applications which will be contracted in FY24.

38

Utah is home to 38
conservation districts,
each with 5 elected
supervisors

CONSERVATION DIVISION

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT LOAN (ARDL) PROGRAM

The ARDL Program finances improvements for landowners to provide for greater efficiencies in agriculture operations, rangeland improvements, water and soil conservation, disaster assistance, and environmental quality.

In FY23, 20 ARDL loans were approved, totaling \$2,821,730.00 while this is down from the average number of loans that are normally approved annually, there are also 25 loans that are pending approval, which would put the program well over the annual average.

17 loans were paid off in FY23, and the program continues to have a great track record of nearly no defaults since its inception. There are currently 233 active ARDL loans totaling \$14,803,170.

RURAL REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

The purpose of Rural Rehabilitation loans is to help financially troubled producers stay in business, to assist beginning farmers in obtaining farm property and to provide financing for transfer of agriculture properties from one generation to another. They are essentially loans of last resort, requiring that applicants be declined by conventional commercial lenders. Terms range up to a maximum of ten years, and interest rates are three percent or less.

In FY23, four new Rural Rehabilitation loans were awarded totaling \$1,305,973, bringing the total number of active Rural Rehab loans to 78.



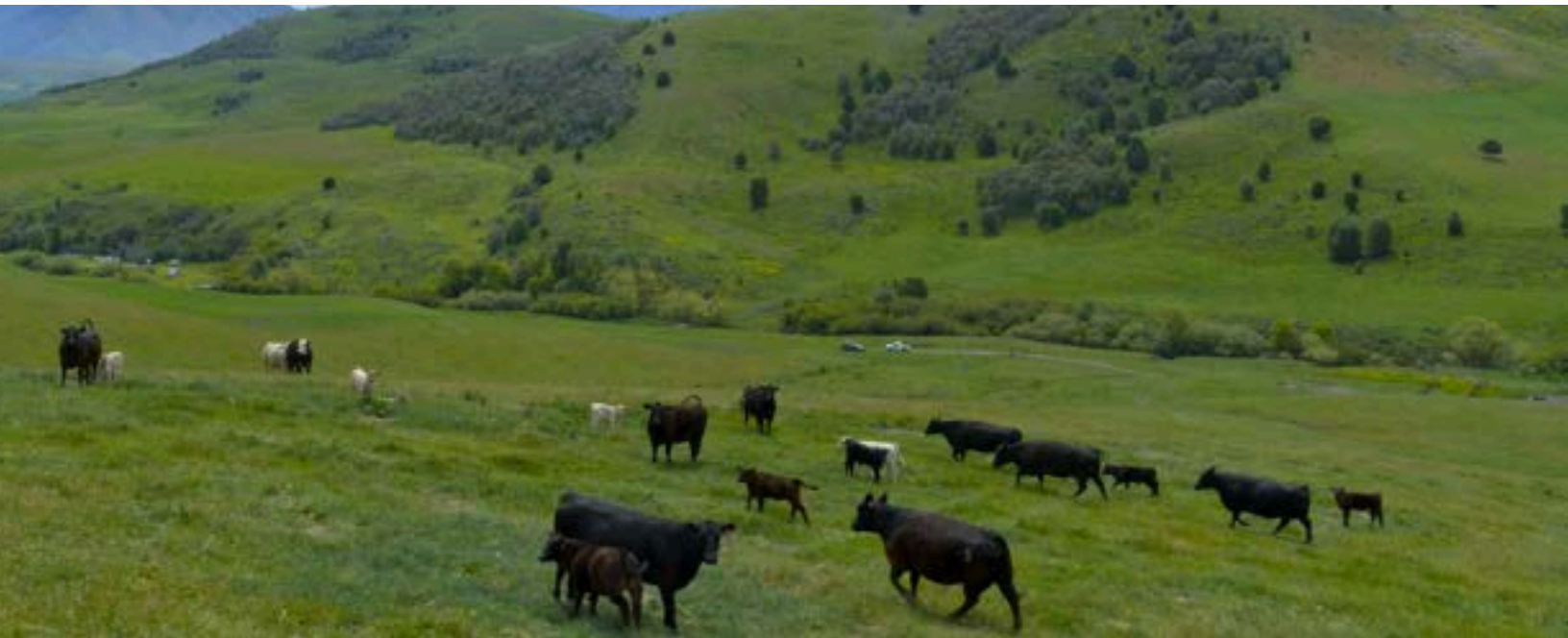
CONSERVATION DIVISION

LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The vision of the UDAF Land Conservation Program is to preserve a high quality of life for all Utah residents and future generations. This is done by promoting the conservation and protection of Utah's agricultural industry and natural resources, conserving agricultural and open lands in the State of Utah where people, agriculture, and nature can thrive, and providing professional and technical assistance to landowners and municipalities to encourage environmentally sound planning, land conservation, and environmental stewardship.

In FY23, a new Program Manager was hired, along with two easement planners that help monitor and implement easements around the state. The program also hired a County Water and Land Conservation Manager who works with counties to consider land conservation and water management issues while developing or updating their land use plans.

During the 2023 legislative session, the LeRay McAllister Working Farm and Ranch Fund Program was awarded \$3 million for easements throughout Utah. UDAF solicited applications for this funding in June of 2023 and received nine applications totaling \$3.8 million. Applications were ranked and grant recipients were announced in September 2023. Meanwhile, several new easements funded by the Quality Growth Commission and are now managed by UDAF are scheduled to close this year.



CONSERVATION DIVISION

UTAH POLLINATOR PROGRAM

In its second year of implementation, the Pollinator Program has seen increased outreach about pollinators and the importance of providing pollinator habitat. In FY23, seed packets were distributed at farmers markets around the state and other various events, including tree sales sponsored by the Local Conservation Districts. Each seed packet includes information about pollinators and a link to the updated website. The Utah Pollinator Habitat Program Facebook group was also developed, and now has 240 members.

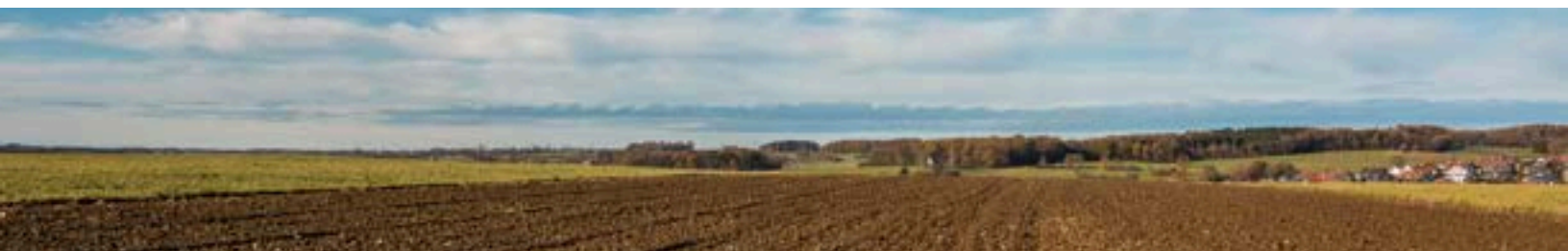
Applications were solicited for the second year to award pollinator plants to interested individuals, and 290 applications were submitted from 24 of the 29 counties. The grant recipients were announced in August 2023.

UTAH SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM

In FY23, 17 soil health demonstration sites were established using grant funding from the Conservation Innovation grant. These sites collect soil health data from operations that are implementing soil health practices on their operations. In addition to the CIG grants, another \$220,000 in grant funding was obtained to examine the benefits of virtual fencing and biochar in crop production.

The Soil Health Program also put on 33 soil health-related events around the state, educating people about the benefits of soil health and answering questions regarding soil health practices.

Soil health staff assisted 76 customers with operations totaling 37,000 acres. They also began doing in-field soil health assessments for interested parties. These assessments took soil samples and evaluated the soil health of the producers, giving them recommendations on how to improve the soil health of their operations.



CONSERVATION DIVISION

AGRICULTURAL WATER OPTIMIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

In FY23, the Agricultural Water Optimization Program continued to allocate the \$70 million given to the program in the 2022 legislative session. UDAF held two application periods in FY23, one in the fall and one in the spring. Between both application periods 490 applications were generated, totaling \$87,404,683 in requests. Of those applications, 93 were funded, totaling \$42,454,491. The Spring Application period allocated the last of the \$70 million in ARPA funding that was awarded to Ag. Water Optimization, bringing the total potential estimated water savings to 313,690 acre feet since it began in 2019.

Senate Bill 277 awarded \$200 million to the Ag. Water Optimization in the 2023 legislative session. Since then, the Agricultural Water Optimization Committee was created, and rules and policy have begun to be drafted to allow UDAF to do a fall grant application period.

Application Period	Funding Requested	# Applications Funded	Funding Awarded	Total Project Cost	Acres Impacted	Projected Annual Water Savings
FY2019	\$3,506,077	16	\$2,761,620	\$15,763,257	54,497	27,913 AF/Y
FY2022	\$10,666,143	19	\$2,713,155	\$9,742,947	48,375	15,283 AF/Y
Spring FY2022	\$34,548,966	141	\$25,512,109	\$95,149,309	356,374	65,542 AF/Y
FY2023	\$87,404,683	193	\$42,454,491	\$75,335,088	112,985	61,599 AF/Y
Total	\$136,125,869	369	\$73,441,375	\$195,990,601	572,232	170,337 AF/Y



CONSERVATION DIVISION

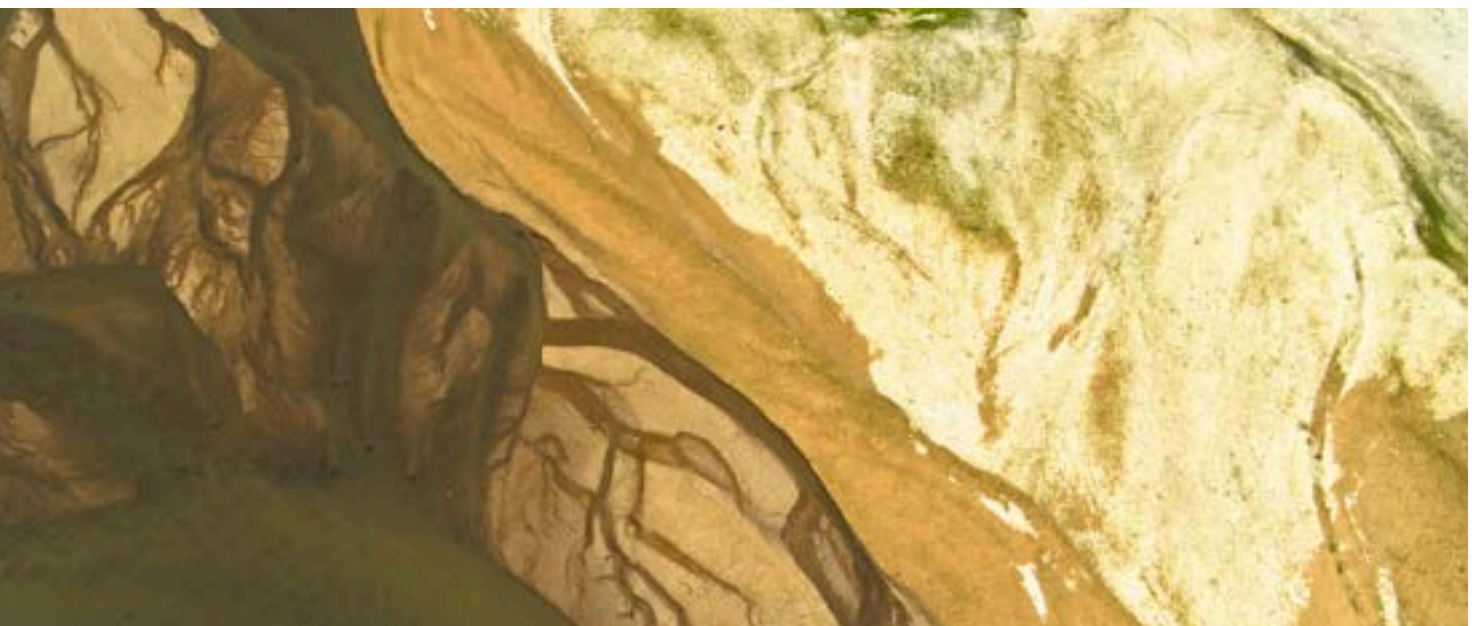
SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM

Utah Salinity Offset Program is a state program managed by UDAF and funded through DEQ and industry. The Salinity Offset Program allows industry to provide energy at lower costs while also improving the efficiency of irrigation and improving water quality. In FY23, the Muddy Creek Irrigation Project was completed, which was a multi-phased, multi-million-dollar effort consisting of several partners. The Offset Program provided \$4.6 million to this irrigation improvement project. Applications are also being solicited for the Salinity Offset funding. These projects will be selected in FY24.

The Basin States Program operates as a partnership with BOR, USDA, EPA, USGS, US F&WS, and BLM as federal agencies and the seven Colorado Basin states. UDAF works locally with DEQ, DNR, local conservation districts, local conservancy districts, and local irrigation entities. These partners discuss, plan and implement projects which reduce the movement and flow of salts into the Colorado River and its tributaries.

The projects also benefit local Utah residents with improved irrigation infrastructure, a longer irrigation season, more efficient water use, and increased economies in project areas. Planning has commenced on the Lower Bench and the US Dry Gulch canals to pipe the canal system, reducing salinity loading into neighboring water bodies. There are also two other projects that are in the planning phase that will mitigate wildlife habitat that was impacted in the basin by the implementation of other salinity projects.

Representatives from the state agency and local partners are members of the CRBSCP Forum, Advisory Council, and Workgroup which oversee and guide the Salinity Control Program among the seven basin states. This program is funded federally with the states' cost sharing through the Basin States Funds.



Grazing Improvement Program Division

The Grazing Improvement Program Improves the productivity, health, and sustainability of our rangelands and watersheds by assisting producers with livestock grazing management practices.

PREDATOR CONTROL PROGRAM

The Predator Control Program is a cooperative program that aims to protect livestock, mainly sheep and cattle, from depredation. Primary predators are coyotes, cougars, bears, ravens, and foxes.

During FY23, the Predator Control Program established a new base pay for new trappers starting out. The Predator Control Program has also entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Division of Wildlife Resources to help with predator control in Utah.

Trappers for the Predator Damage Management Program remove problem or nuisance predators to protect Utah livestock and wildlife from depredation and disease.

Their efforts help to alleviate or reduce both economic loss to livestock producers and social economic impacts to the public. They also respond to requests from DWR to protect human health and safety from dangerous animals. More than 6,200 predators of various species were removed in 2022 for the protection of livestock, wildlife, and human health and safety.

PREDATORS REMOVED STATEWIDE:

- Badger: 12
- Bears: 22
- Beaver: 10
- Bobcats: 2
- Coyotes, Burrow/Den: 32
- Coyotes: 3,392
- Foxes, Red Burrow/Den: 2
- Foxes, Red: 69
- Lions, Mountain: 30
- Ravens, Common: 2,689
- Skunk, Striped: 396
- Starling, European: 42,947

Additional Notes:

1,359.9 hrs. were flown for the protection of livestock and wildlife.

Deer were removed in a joint effort with UDWR to reduce the risk of CWD spreading to wild deer and elk herds found around private game ranches.

The starling take took place on dairies and feedlots for the protection of human health and safety (disease threats), reduce loss of feed from starlings and feed contamination.

Working with the UDWR to protect bighorn sheep at their new “Big horn sheep Nursey” in Tabiona from Mountain Lion depredations.

Also, noteworthy, our employees provided technical assistance to 490 individuals via personal consultation or by phone on how to deal with a wide variety of nuisance wildlife.

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION

The Laboratory Services Division operates as a service for the other divisions within UDAF and other state agencies and programs. The division laboratories provide chemical, physical, and microbiological analyses of agricultural and food products. Field inspectors from the Plant Industry, Conservation, Regulatory Services and Animal Health Divisions collect most of the samples analyzed by the laboratories. Some samples may only be tested for specific ingredients, as stated by the associated label guarantee; others are also examined for undesirable materials and contaminants.

The labs perform most of their testing on samples for the dairy, animal feed, fertilizer, water quality, hemp, medical cannabis and USDA meat programs. The labs also provide important testing for lower sample volume providers such as the Utah Rapid Response Team, DABC, the EPA pesticide program, and Utah's kratom program.

LABORATORIES

- ▶ **ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY LAB**
- ▶ **DAIRY TESTING LAB**
- ▶ **FEED AND FERTILIZER LAB**
- ▶ **MEAT TESTING LAB**
- ▶ **PESTICIDE TESTING LAB**



LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY LAB

The Analytical Chemistry Lab uses advanced instrumentation to quantify the amounts of various chemical compounds in specific agricultural products, such as CBD and THC in hemp. They also analyze samples for the presence of common adulterants such as pesticides, mycotoxins, residual solvents, and drugs. The Analytical Chemistry Lab is responsible for testing products registered with the Utah Medical Cannabis Program and the Industrial Hemp Program. These products are tested for their cannabinoid content and adulterants to ensure they comply with state regulations.

DAIRY TESTING LAB

The Dairy Testing Lab is responsible for testing Grade-A milk and dairy products, including pre-pasteurized milk and finished dairy products, such as ice cream, cottage cheese and coffee creamer. The laboratory also administers a laboratory certification program for the local dairy industry.

FEED AND FERTILIZER LAB

The Feed and Fertilizer Lab analyzes feed and fertilizer products to ensure label guarantees. This lab also tests for the presence of harmful adulterants, such as heavy metals or other toxins.

MEAT LAB

The Meat Lab analyzes samples obtained during inspections of plants and processing facilities in Utah. The lab tests for the protein and fat content of the meat samples. Samples are also tested for harmful pathogens to ensure that production plants are following proper hygienic practices.



MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

UDAF's Marketing and Economic Development (MED) Division supports the economic prosperity of Utah's food and agriculture producers and raises awareness, and support, local agriculture and food products.

The division also provides support to all UDAF divisions through internal and public communications via the UDAF and Utah's Own websites, social media accounts, and content development for print, digital, and video needs.

The Marketing and Economic Development Division is comprised of the Ag Stress Assistance Program, International Trade Program, the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and the Utah's Own Program. New in 2023 is the Farm to School Program, operating in partnership with the Utah State Board of Education.

In addition to these programs, the division provides staff support to Utah's Local Food Advisory Council, administers the Tart Cherry, Apple, and Sheep Marketing Boards; serves as the treasure for the Junior Livestock Association, and works closely with community stakeholders and industry leaders to develop healthy rural economies.

MAJOR PROGRAMS

▸ **AG STRESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

▸ **INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

▸ **FARM TO SCHOOL**

▸ **SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

▸ **RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT**

▸ **UTAH'S OWN**



MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

AG STRESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

UDAF partners with USU Extension AgWellness to provide mental healthcare support to Utah producers and their family members through the Ag Stress Assistance Program. Through this program, USDA NIFA FR SAN funding will provide mental healthcare vouchers and workshops to agricultural producers, as well as trainings to 988 operators to prepare them to respond to calls related to ag and rural Utah-specific stressors.

FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

In 2023, UDAF was awarded \$433,809 in USDA Farm to School Formula Grant funding through an interagency partnership with the Utah State Board of Education. This funding brought a 3 year FTE position dedicated to farm-to-school programming to UDAF for the first time. This role is focused on helping farmers engage in the school procurement process, helping schools purchase more locally produced foods, and helping children develop a connection with and understanding of local agriculture.

LOCAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Local Food Advisory Council was created in 2017 with the purpose of promoting vibrant locally-owned farms, strong communities and healthy eating; enhancing local food economies; and improving local food access for all Utahns. The council holds four annual meetings to bring members of the local food community together to discuss challenges and identify possible solutions.

In 2023, the council met four times focusing on issues related to agricultural land preservation, production and distribution, food security, and regulations.



MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROGRAM

UDAF's International Trade Program exists to connect Utah agriculture and food producers with a variety of local and global resources to facilitate growth into international markets. These resources include partnerships with the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA), World Trade Center Utah, the U.S. Commercial Service, and the Salt Lake Regional Small Business Development Center

MARKET REPORTS

Publishing market reports and commodity price information is critical for agriculture producers and agribusinesses. UDAF's Marketing and Economic Development team is proud to provide this important service and regularly shares statewide livestock auction reports as well as information about hay, dairy, and wheat prices.

SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the awareness and consumption of specialty crops, defined as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). In 2023 UDAF awarded \$355,050.14 in USDA AMS grant funds.

Projects funded in the 2023 application cycle will increase specialty crop education for the public and beginning farmers, maximize sustainable production using alternative water sources, promote increased awareness of Utah-Grown tree fruits, and learn more about irrigation needs in the state.



MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

UTAH'S OWN PROGRAM

Utah's Own is "dedicated to the promotion of locally produced products of agriculture" as outlined in Utah Code Subsection 4-8-104(5). The program supports local producers seeking to connect consumers and businesses to Utah-grown and Utah-made agriculture and food products.

Membership in the Utah's Own program has grown considerably since FY20, increasing from 109 members to 338. Of the 338 members in FY23, 84 were farms and ranches, 212 were food and beverage artisans, 14 were restaurant and food service providers, and 29 were other ag products (skin care, garden products, etc.)

In 2023, Utah's Own maintained a strong focus on promoting farm and ranch businesses. Through Specialty Crop Block Grant funding obtained in the 2021 application cycle, Utah's Own ran a series of print, digital, and billboard ads promoting Utah's specialty crop industry.



Utah's Own Membership Summary				
Types of Members	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
# of New UO Members	59	65	56	107
# of Renewing UO Members	50	178	185	231
Percentage of Renewing Memberships	28.09%	163.30%	76.13%	95.00%
Total Members	109	243	241	338

MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

UTAH'S OWN CONTINUED

During FY23, the Utah’s Own Program also increased consumer and community outreach through digital and in-person campaigns.

Table B: Utah’s Own FY23 Promotions	
Types of Promotion	# of People Reached*
Organic Digital Promotion: Website, Social & Email	587,696
Billboards & Magazines	272,500*
Community Events (6)	303,650
Vendor Trade Shows (3)	32,000
Total:	1,195,846

**These numbers are calculated for reach – the measurement of the size of the actual audience that has seen ads or campaign content. Reach also eliminates duplicity of views (i.e. if one person sees the advertisement more than once throughout the year). The number of consumer impressions obtained through these practices totals more than 7 million.*



MEDICAL CANNABIS AND INDUSTRIAL HEMP DIVISION

INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM

The Industrial Hemp Program dedicates itself to improving the safety and quality of cannabinoid products available to consumers in Utah. The program’s product registration review process is considered to have some leading standards in the nation as regulators across the US adapt to a young, developing industry. The Industrial Hemp Program team consists of compliance specialists and administrative staff who continue to provide regulatory services to consumers and producers all across the state.

MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

The Medical Cannabis Program is in its fourth year of production and continues to work closely with the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and licensed medical cannabis cultivators (8), processors (15), and independent testing labs (1) to ensure Utah’s 71,480 medical cannabis patients maintain access to a variety of safe, quality products. Additionally, the program has registered over 1,300 production establishment agents, authorizing individuals to legally work in cannabis production establishments in Utah.

As of August 2023, Utah’s medical cannabis licensees have harvested nearly 44,000 lbs. of medical cannabis and produced over 1.8 million final product units that were sent to pharmacies for patients to purchase this year. UDAF’s Medical Cannabis team of compliance specialists and administrative staff provide thorough, dedicated service to the licensees and patients in Utah’s medical cannabis market.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, UDAF, DHHS, and legislators worked together to transition medical cannabis pharmacies (15) and couriers (2) under UDAF’s purview in order to streamline medical cannabis regulation. As the program grows, protecting patient safety and access to quality medical cannabis remains the program’s priority.

2023 YTD Industrial Hemp Licensing	
Industrial Hemp Retail Permits Issued	1,562
Cannabinoid Procoessor Licenses Issued	110
Cannabinoid Products Registered	1,090
Random QA Samples Collected	246
Inspections Performed	688

2023 YTD Medical Cannabis Compliance	
Cultivator Inspections	80
Processor Inspections	103
Independent Testing Lab Inspections	7
Pharmacy Label Inspections	51
QA Samples	3,988
QA Sample Test Failures	37

PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

The Division of Plant Industry is responsible for ensuring consumers of disease-free and pest-free plants, grains and seeds, properly labeled agricultural commodities, and the safe application of pesticides and farm chemicals.

MAJOR PROGRAMS

- ▶ **ANIMAL FEED**
- ▶ **APIARY**
- ▶ **FERTILIZER**
- ▶ **FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INSPECTION**
- ▶ **GRAIN INSPECTION**
- ▶ **INSECT**
- ▶ **INVASIVE SPECIES MITIGATION**
- ▶ **NOXIOUS WEED**
- ▶ **NURSERY**
- ▶ **ORGANIC CERTIFICATION**
- ▶ **PESTICIDE**
- ▶ **SEED INSPECTION**



PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

CHERRY DIVERSION

The Cherry Industry Administrative Board (CIAB) administers a marketing order at the request of, by the vote of, and at the expense of, the tart cherry industry. It was created to assist the industry in dealing with the erratic production cycle of red tart cherries and to improve returns to the growers and processors of red tart cherries in the United States. The CIAB regulates the processors (aka handlers) of tart cherries. It impacts processors by establishing the portion of each year's production that must be moved into alternative outlets or through alternative options. The order establishes the tools and mechanisms to deal with surpluses or shortfalls of supply for processors.

Division employees didn't assist tart cherry growers and/or processors in implementing the protocols of the cherry diversion program in their orchards and processing plants in 2022. Because of a small tart cherry crop nationwide, no diversion was held.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INSPECTION

At the request of one onion packing shed, 4,034,000 pounds of onions were inspected for US No. 1 grade certification following established USDA-FFV marketing standards represented by 49 inspection certificates. Field inspections, sampling, and testing for food-borne illness microbial contamination on onions have also been provided, which helps meet food safety standards for certain onion processors and restaurant contracts.



PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

FERTILIZER PROGRAM

Administration of the Utah Fertilizer Act (Title 4, Chapter 13) involves regulating the registration, manufacturing, distribution, sale, use and storage of fertilizer products. UDAF regulates and licenses fertilizer blenders, monitors the applicators that spray or apply fertilizer, conducts a tonnage assessment program of fertilizers distributed in the state, and takes samples for testing and analysis.

587	Fertilizer Registrants	6,661	Fertilizer Products Registered
123	Official Samples Submitted for Analysis	11	Number of those Samples Not Registered at the Time of Sampling
19	Number of Samples in Violation of the Guaranteed Analysis	15%	Violation Percentage
		1	Number of Citations Issued
44	Number of Fertilizer Blender Licenses Issued		

COMMERCIAL FEED

Administration of the Utah Commercial Feed Act (Title 4, Chapter 12) involves regulating the registration, manufacturing, distribution, and sale of feed products. UDAF regulates customer formula feed manufacturers and takes samples of commercial feed products for testing and analysis. Feed safety inspections relating to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (mad cow disease) are also done under an FDA contract.

912	Feed Registrants	16,366	Feed Products Registered
191	Official Samples Submitted for Analysis	16	Number of those Samples Not Registered at the Time of Sampling
8	Number of Samples in Violation of the Guaranteed Analysis	4%	Violation Percentage
		0	Number of Citations Issued
49	Number of Customer Formula Feed Mix Licenses Issued	4	Out-of-Business Inspections for FDA
50	BSE Inspections for FDA	30	Official Establishment Inventory Inspections for FDA

PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

INSECT AND PEST PROGRAM

Early detection and rapid response to invasive pests are critical for agriculture's future success. Invasive pests and diseases are moving around the world at an alarming rate due to the growth of commerce and worldwide trade. These developments have created challenges and new pathways of introduction. Agricultural pests have the potential to impact the nation's food crops much like a natural disaster, with annual losses estimated to be between 20-25% depending on the host and species. While many insects are beneficial, and pollinators are supported, invasive pest infestations can devastate agriculture and the environment.

INVASIVE INSECT DETECTION

Japanese Beetle: (*Popillia Japonica*) is an exotic pest of turf, ornamental, vegetable and fruit plants. Established populations are found in most states east of the Rocky Mountains. In Utah, small populations of this pest have been detected in recent years. In response, UDAF has declared an insect infestation emergency and eradication efforts to eliminate the pest are underway. In 2022, a total of 83 acres of irrigated turf were treated throughout Davis, Salt Lake and Weber counties. In that same year, 5,584 Japanese beetle traps were placed across the state in all 29 counties. A total of 103 beetles were found in three counties (Davis, Salt Lake, and Weber). In 2023, high density (delimiting) trapping continues in areas where beetles have been detected; turf treatments were conducted in areas of heavy infestation.

Spongy Moth: (*Lymantria Dispar*) is an invasive defoliator of many species of hardwood trees. Populations are established in New England and parts of the Midwest and South. UDAF monitors for introductions and has eradicated this pest in the past. In 2022, 2,206 Spongy Moth traps were deployed around the state and no target pests were detected.

European Corn Borer: (*Ostrinia Nubilalis*) is a pest of corn and other field crops that was accidentally introduced into Massachusetts over 100 years ago. It has since spread throughout most states east of the Rocky Mountains. UDAF conducts an annual survey of this pest. In 2022, 11 counties were surveyed for European corn borer; a total of 69 traps yielded no target pests.

Emerald Ash Borer: (*Agrilus Planipennis*) is a devastating invasive pest of all ash species (*Fraxinus*) that is found in many eastern states and Colorado. The USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently ended its emerald ash borer quarantine and trapping efforts. As a result, UDAF enacting a state quarantine of this pest in 2021. Trapping efforts were also expanded. In 2022, a total of 77 traps were placed across nine counties and roughly 40 additional traps were placed through collaborative efforts with agency partners. No target pests were detected.

Pine Shoot Beetle: The invasive pine (*Pinus*) boring insect Pine Shoot Beetle (*Tomicus Piniperda*) was first found in Ohio in 1992. It has spread throughout the Midwest since that time. UDAF monitors for this pest annually. In 2021, 25 traps were placed among eight different counties. No target pests were found in any of the trapping sites.

PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

APIARY INSPECTIONS

The history of Utah's Apiary Program dates back prior to statehood, when the area was still a United States (U.S.) territory. It was created by the local legislature at the behest of resident beekeepers, whose hives were being decimated by contagious diseases. Over a century has passed since then, yet the program still remains. While much has changed since its founding, the core goal of protecting honey bee *Apis Mellifera* (Linnaeus) health remains the same.

In 2022, state inspectors visited 132 operations and inspected 669 individual hives, which is a 24% increase in the number of hives inspected as compared to 2021. County officials inspected another 230 operations and 1,355 individual hives – a 61% increase in hives inspected as compared to 2021.

American foulbrood (AFB) *Paenibacillus Larvae*, the most deadly and contagious of brood (larvae) diseases, was found in 3.75% of hives inspected, with the majority of cases being located in Utah county. There were also breakouts in Washington county and Kane county. This AFB rate was a marked increase from last year (1.44%), and notably approached the 3.90% infection rate in 2018, which was a decades-long high. The UDAF Apiary Program's goal is to keep this disease's incidence below 1% of colonies. To reach this goal UDAF continues to increase beekeeper awareness and education about AFB.

European foulbrood (EFB) *Melissococcus Plutonius* disease was found in 2.87% of hives, which is a slight increase from the previous year (2.65%). EFB is a less serious brood disease than AFB, but it still has negative impact on colony health.

The fungal brood pathogen chalkbrood *Ascosphaera Apis* was found in 4.20% of hives inspected. This is a significant increase from last year (1.44%), and the cause of this increase is currently unknown. Like EFB, it is considered a less problematic malady than AFB, but persistent infections can contribute to colony losses.

Varroa mite *Varroa destructor* (Anderson and Trueman) is the most devastating honey bee pest. This parasite is closely associated with the condition termed Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS). 9.19% of inspected hives showed symptoms of the syndrome in 2022, as compared to roughly 5% of hives with PMS in 2021.

No small hive beetles (SHB) *Aethina Tuminda* (Murray) were detected in 2022, despite finding the invasive bee pest from 2016 to 2019. The pest had previously been documented in Davis, Millard and Washington counties. Utah's dry climate is thought to be unaccommodating to SHB, which may explain why none were found in 2022.

AFRICANIZED HONEY BEE

In 2008, Africanized honey bee (AHB) *Apis mellifera scutellata* (Lepeletier) was first detected in Southern Utah; shortly after the UDAF Apiary Program began monitoring its spread through the state. The counties with known established AHB populations are: Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Kane, San Juan, Washington, and Wayne. State inspectors continue to track AHB by testing feral bees and aggressive managed colonies, with particular attention being paid to uninfested counties neighboring known infested counties. The UDAF Apiary Program is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders are made aware whenever AHB moves into new areas. During 2022, program staff were unable to collect the minimum required number of samples necessary for genetic AHB testing. Samples collected in 2022 will be held until enough samples are collected in 2023 to facilitate genetic AHB testing from at-risk counties.

PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

INVASIVE SPECIES MITIGATION

The Invasive Species Mitigation (ISM) Program protects Utah's natural resources, agriculture and economy through competitive grants with county Cooperative Weed Management Areas, state and federal agencies, and private property owners.

In 2023, the program received 59 applications for projects statewide. These projects covered 37 of the 54 regulated species within the Utah Noxious Weed Act.

- Over \$2,910,000.00 in project requests were received by the Department.
- The program funded 54 projects totaling \$2,258,315.00.
- Matching funds and in-kind contributions were at a 2:1 ratio.

The ISM project monitoring completed its 6th year on many projects across the state, the following results are encouraging:

- Projects are showing a 47% reduction of invasive species within project sites.
- Projects are showing a 30% increase in relative native plant cover.

Utah's Invasive Species Dataset Improvements

- The program is managing over 200,000 verified invasive species data points covering all 29 counties.
- The dataset was updated in 2022 for accuracy and distribution.

Program Administration and Management

- The program improved the application ranking process within the Utah Spatial Invasive Infestation and Priority Analysis (SIIPA) tool and its deliverables.
- The program provided statewide training on the new ISM grant management platform.

Program Transparency and Information Distribution

- ISM launched three unique dashboards to show the funded project location, information about the project, contact information, and partnership contributions.



PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

SEED INSPECTION AND TESTING PROGRAM

Administration of the Utah Seed Act (Title 4, Chapter 16) involves the inspection and testing of seeds offered for sale in Utah. The Utah Seed Control Officials issue letters of violation on all lots of seeds that are in violation of the seed act. The labelers of the seed then have 15 days to correct the violation. Inspectors determine if the violation has been promptly corrected, and, if not, seed lots are withheld from sale until the violation is corrected. Citations are issued for habitual labeling violations, as well as noxious and restricted weed contamination.

340	Official Samples Submitted for Analysis	3,616	Number of Service Samples Submitted by Industry
3,956	Total Number of Seed Samples	41	Number of Samples in Violation
1	Number of Citations Issued	12%	Violation Percentage
1	Number of Bird Seed Feed Samples Screened for Noxious Weeds		

UDAF seed inspectors have been providing seed inspections and phytosanitary certification to help several companies develop and expand their international markets for vegetable and small grain seed.

They have also been sampling wheat and triticale from all over the state as part of the annual Karnal Bunt disease survey that is done in cooperation with USDA-APHIS-PPQ. Proving that this disease is known not to occur in Utah keeps our international wheat grain export markets open. Twelve wheat or triticale samples from 11 different counties were taken for testing and analysis, and all were found free from Karnal Bunt.



PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

NURSERY PROGRAM

UDAF's Nursery Program exists to protect Utah's Nursery and landscape industries by monitoring for, intercepting, and preventing the spread and establishment of economically and environmentally significant pests on nursery stock. The nursery program also ensures that plant materials offered for sale to the public and interstate commerce are pest-free and healthy. As well as ensuring pest-free and healthy plant materials offered for sale to the public and interstate commerce.

Highlights of the UDAF 2020 Nursery Program

- Inspected 615 of 638 licensed nurseries, conducted over 1,500 nursery inspections
- Reviewed over 2,000 interstate plant shipments for quarantine compliance.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

UDAF is a proud USDA National Organic Program (NOP) certifier. Since 2001, UDAF has certified crops and processed products and livestock, enabling them to sell and market their products around the world as a trusted and reliable organic source. UDAF conducted annual inspections at all certified facilities and performed random and risk-based unannounced inspections along with residue sampling to ensure that UDAF-certified NOP organic operations met expectations.

Producers	
Total Producers Certified	88
New Producers Certified	12
Producers Undergoing Certification	5
Total Producers Worked With	101
Producers Surrendered	8

# of Export Certificates Issued	
China	137
Japan	11
Korea	9
UK	5
Total:	162

*Over 1,200 Products Certified

PHYTOSANITARY PROGRAM

UDAF's Phytosanitary Program is in place to safeguard agriculture and natural resources and to prevent the establishment and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests, and facilitates the safe trade of agriculture products on an international and interstate level.

PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

PESTICIDE PROGRAM

Data: The UDAF Pesticide Program is partially funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency and operates on the federal fiscal year.

Pesticide Registration: A pesticide manufacturer must register their pesticide product with the State in order to sell it to or within the state. 14,012 pesticide products were registered.

Licensing Data: 1,398 commercial pesticide businesses were licensed, which includes pest control operators, landscapers, and others that apply pesticides commercially for compensation. There were 7,776 certified and licensed applicators, including commercial applicators, government employees, farmers, and others who require a license to apply pesticides.

Continuing Education Units (CEU's): CEU's are opportunities for updating knowledge or skills and are required for licensed applicators to renew their licenses. These events are sponsored by UDAF, Utah State University or industry groups. Members of the Pesticide Program Team have given approximately 60 presentations, both online and in person.

Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) Dealer: In order to buy or apply a RUP, an applicator's license is required. Likewise, to sell a RUP, the dealer must have a RUP Dealer license. In FY2022, 86 companies were licensed to sell RUP's in or into Utah.

Inspections and Investigations: The Pesticide Program performs random inspections with applicators, dealers, manufacturers and others to ensure that they are using, selling, and/or manufacturing pesticides according to state and federal law. Pesticide related complaints are investigated to ascertain violations, causes and responsible parties. Regulatory actions include written warnings, citations, and license suspension or revocation.

During the federal FY2022, the Pesticide Program had completed 565 inspections and investigations. Regulatory actions were taken in 148 of the cases, the majority of which were written warnings.



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

Protecting the safety and integrity of the food supply is one of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's core functions. The Division of Regulatory Services operates with regulatory oversight of a wide spectrum of programs to ensure wholesome, clean, and uniform products throughout the state.

MAJOR PROGRAMS

- ▶ **BEDDING, UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, AND QUILTED CLOTHING**
- ▶ **DAIRY COMPLIANCE**
- ▶ **MANUFACTURED FOOD**
- ▶ **PRODUCE SAFETY**
- ▶ **RETAIL FOOD**
- ▶ **UTAH RAPID RESPONSE TEAM**
- ▶ **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**



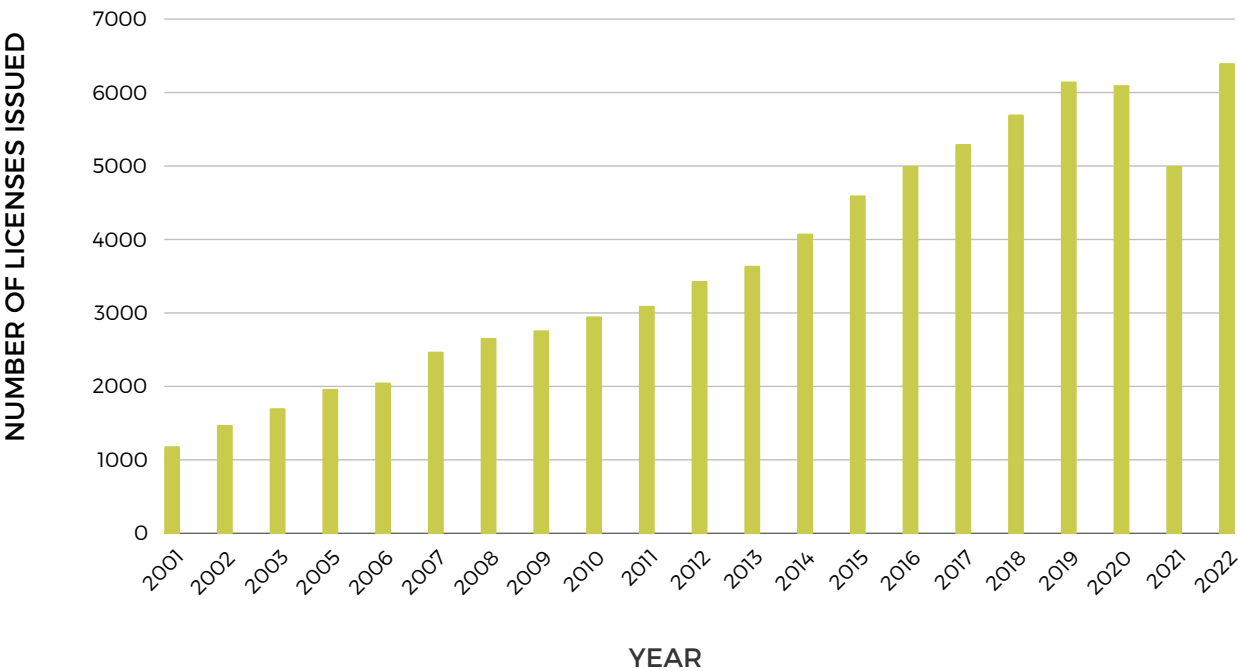
REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

BEDDING, UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, AND QUILTED CLOTHING PROGRAM

The purpose of the Bedding, Upholstered Furniture, and Quilted Clothing Program is to protect consumers against fraud and product misrepresentation, to ensure Utahns of hygienically clean products, and to provide allergy awareness. This enables consumers to make informed buying decisions based on price, value, and performance and helps maintain equality in the marketplace for manufacturers. Utah law requires manufacturers, supply dealers, wholesalers, sterilizers, and repairers of these products and their components to obtain an annual permit before offering items for sale within the state. Products in retail markets are inspected to ensure compliance, and Utah’s manufacturing sites are inspected for cleanliness and truthful labeling. Laboratory testing of suspect products is conducted to determine whether their contents are accurately labeled and free from filth and other contaminants.

In 2022, Utah issued approximately 6,000 licenses, generating nearly \$672,000 in revenue. The number of active licenses has more than quadrupled since 2001. The program utilizes three and one-half full-time employees.

NUMBER OF BEDDING, UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, &
QUILTED CLOTHING LICENSES ISSUED 2001-2021



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

MANUFACTURED FOOD PROGRAM

The Manufactured Food Program is a unique food regulatory program housed within the Regulatory Services Division of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF). The program has oversight responsibilities for all food processors and manufacturers in the state. These include dietary supplement manufacturers and hemp processors. Manufactured food inspectors are some of the most extensively trained inspectors at UDAF. The manufactured food inspection team conducts several inspections, including routine risk-based inspections, limited-scope Preventive Controls inspections, GMP Certificate (Hemp) inspections, pre-operational inspections, dietary supplement GMP inspections, and FDA Contract inspections. The division has nine inspectors trained to varying levels and specialties working in the Manufactured Food Program and other programs.

Manufactured food inspectors are also tasked with conducting consultations and plan reviews to ensure that new food and dietary supplement facilities are designed and constructed according to federal and state requirements. Manufactured food inspectors also investigate consumer complaints and help with emergency response activities.

The Manufactured Food Program was started in 2013 and developed utilizing a set of 10 quality standards [Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS)]. The MFRPS are ingrained into all work activities undertaken by manufactured food staff, including: regulatory foundational laws, inspector training, risk-based inspection protocols, quality assurance and auditing, food-borne illness and incident response, compliance and enforcement, industry outreach, program resources, program self-assessment, and laboratory requirements.

During FY22, manufactured food inspectors conducted 767 inspections (all types). This number has increased significantly, approximately 50 percent above FY21. This year was spent on continued efforts to rebuild the program and the inspection staff. Hiring and training new manufactured food inspectors is a long and sometimes very slow process. Hiring has been challenging in the post-Covid-19 environment and the training is so comprehensive that it takes as long as 2 years to fully develop a manufactured food inspector.



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

MANUFACTURED FOOD PROGRAM [CONTINUED]

▶ **FDA Inspect Contract**

The 2022 FDA inspection contract planned for the manufactured food inspection team to perform 50 Limited-scope PC inspections, up to 11 facility visits, two full-scope PC (multi-day) inspections, and 3 PC audits. In FY21, with the loss of our FDA inspection team, we were unable to fulfill our FDA contract. This year, we completely rebuilt our contract inspection team. We currently have five credentialed, fully trained contract inspectors and one credentialed inspector approaching completion of the training requirements. This year's contract completion occurred in August 2023. The extra revenue from those inspections will be \$61,823.37. The current FDA contract year came to an end in September 2023. Efforts to expand the FDA contract inspection team will continue next year.

▶ **Training**

With the loss of many inspectors last year, hiring and training new inspectors continues to be the highest priority for the Manufactured Food Program. We have been successful at hiring and training several new inspectors over the last year. Our newest inspectors start in the Retail Food Program and when their retail training is complete and they are working independently, they are given the opportunity to train in an additional program, either dairy, manufactured food, or both. Two of our experienced retail inspectors have recently began their manufactured food training and will be conducting independent manufactured inspections within a month of completion. We have six additional inspectors ready to begin their training in manufactured food as well. The goal is to have all inspectors in the Regulatory Division complete training in all three programs- dairy, retail, and manufactured food. These inspectors will then work a hybrid roster with all inspection types available for them to complete.

REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

RETAIL FOOD PROGRAM

UDAF's Retail Food Regulatory Program currently registers 5,076 retail food establishments throughout the State of Utah, an increase of 286 establishments from the end of the previous fiscal year. During FY23, the Retail Food Regulatory Program conducted 6,056 total inspections, including 1,004 follow-up inspections in regard to compliance and enforcement. The Division of Regulatory Services currently employs 17 Compliance Officers who are highly trained and licensed as Environmental Health Scientists. These Compliance Officers have responsibilities in multiple programs, including the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program, the Dairy Program, the Meat and Poultry Compliance Program, and the Retail Food Regulatory Program. The program plans to hire additional full-time Compliance Officers to better aid the department in meeting sustainable program goals.

The plan review process of prospective, converted, and remodeled food establishments continues to be streamlined to ensure that the department is more capable of starting industry on the pathway to success with current food safety rules, laws, and regulations. Fee schedules are being reviewed to ensure that appropriate funding is allotted for in-depth plan review activities of physical facility specifications, hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plans, and variance requests.

Modifications to the internal inspection operating system, the Food Safety Management System (FSMS), have been implemented to achieve an at least equal to status with the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (VNRFRPS). These changes help the Retail Food Regulatory Program focus on foodborne illness risk factors and public health interventions, in addition to good retail practices (GRPs). During FY23, an emphasis was made on compliance and enforcement activities, this effort was made to mitigate imminent risks to the public health and to ensure that retail food establishments operate under sanitary conditions.



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

RETAIL FOOD PROGRAM [CONTINUED]

▶ Cottage Food Program

There are 456 cottage food facilities currently registered under the Retail Food Regulatory Program. These numbers fluctuate greatly from year to year and only show a net growth of 50 since the end of FY18; this is largely due to the rising popularity of the Home Consumption and Homemade Food Act. Routine inspections of cottage food facilities are conducted virtually to ensure conformance with preapproved procedures and specifications. Coordinating this program requires public outreach and education, and many commodities require a product assessment to ensure that the finished product is not considered potentially hazardous or requires temperature control for safety.

▶ Meat and Poultry Compliance

The Retail Food Regulatory Program conducts surveillance activities of individuals, firms, and corporations who are subject to the provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, the Egg Products Inspection Act, and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. During FY23, the Retail Food Regulatory Program conducted a total of 1,031 in-commerce surveillance reviews of amenable products to ensure compliance with applicable rules, laws, and regulations. All violations, food safety incidents, or food defense incidents of the aforementioned Acts were investigated using an at least equal to methodology directed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

▶ Training

Education by the FDA Office of Training Education and Development (OTED), is now being offered in-person, which has made advanced training more readily available. The majority of Compliance Officers are now trained in special processes in retail, managing retail food safety, and risk-based inspection methods. Skills and proficiencies learned in these courses are beneficial to all programs within the Division of Regulatory Services. Career mobility will be expanded with the addition of high-level coordinator positions. These changes with targeted funding will drastically reduced employee turnover.

REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

DAIRY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

Utah continues to lose small dairy producers as much of the milk production in the state is being consolidated into larger facilities. The increase in water/flooding this year has also led to a rise of higher than normal bacteria and somatic cell counts throughout the state. We have had an increase in milk testing warning letters being sent to our producers to ensure the quality of our milk supply stays compliant with FDA regulations, and is and is the proper quality to be processed and sold to the public.



Types of Dairy Plants in Utah:

- Aseptic Plants: 1
- Butter Plants: 3
- Cheese Cutting and Wrapping: 5
- Dairy HACCP Plants: 1
- Frozen Dessert Plants: 1
- Gade A Fluid Milk Plants: 11
- Ice Cream Plants: 13
- Manufactured Grade Cheese: 14
- Grade A Drying Plant: 2
- Raw for Retail Dairies: 10
- Wash Bays: 11
- Robotic Milkers: 29
- Single Service Fabricating Plants: 13
- Yogurt Plants: 6
- Farmstead Cheese Dairies: 6
- Goat Dairies: 4



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

UTAH RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

The Utah Rapid Response Team (URRT) is a FDA funded program that was established in the State of Utah in 2019 and is housed at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF). The purpose of the URRT is to respond quickly to outbreaks associated with human and animal food and other food or feed-related incidents in order to protect human and animal health. The URRT works closely with the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and ESF #11, and ESF #6 to ensure prompt and effective communication and response.

The URRT Steering Committee is made up of local, state, federal, and tribal partnerships that collaborate to develop the most effective ways to work together during outbreak response and emergencies. In addition, the URRT has the capability to deploy resources during foodborne illness outbreaks. Each year, the URRT tests our mobile capacity to ensure our readiness in responding quickly and efficiently.

Some examples of response efforts by the URRT include but are not limited to: human illness clusters and outbreaks, animal feed contamination, requests for emergency assistance from other agencies, large planned events, severe weather events, and other food/feed emergencies. The URRT responses require enhanced coordination, communication, subject matter expertise, and the technical skills that RRT members have developed.



The Utah Rapid Response Team at a summer retreat in Cache Valley.

REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

UTAH RAPID RESPONSE TEAM CONTINUED

► Fiscal Year 2023 Highlights

- Responded to 2 outbreaks within the state of Utah, and collaborated with federal, state and local partners.
 - The URRT assisted state and local partners to complete an environmental assessment and environmental sampling at a local establishment in response to an outbreak of Salmonella 4:i:-. Agencies involved in the response included UDAF, The Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and Salt Lake County Health Department.
 - The URRT assisted UDAF inspectors in fulfilling an FDA CORE sampling assignment in response to a multistate outbreak of Salmonella Enteritidis associated with raw cookie dough purchased from a chain establishment.
- The Food Safety Taskforce sponsored the second annual Food Safety Conference, a statewide, 2 day conference. Highlights include:
 - 243 people registered for the conference that featured 9 vendors, and 25 speakers. Representatives from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Oregon, Ohio, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington participated in the conference.
 - Bill Marler, a well-known food safety lawyer, spoke on the importance of food safety. Barry Parsons, from Paster Training, discussed the importance of sanitizing and how to use sanitizing test strips properly.
 - Tracynda Davis from the FDA gave a 3-hour training on, “Food Establishment Employee Health-How to Establish And Implement A Sick Policy.” In addition to this training, there was an industry panel that consisted of Harmons, Associated Foods, In-N-Out, and InstaCart. A tabletop exercise was also conducted by Thayne Mickelson (UDAF), Talisha Bacon (UDAF), Traycinda Davis (UDAF), and Delaney Moore (UDHHS) on the process of an outbreak investigation.
 - The conference was highly successful, offering 13.50 CEU’s to participants, and recruited new members for the Utah Food Safety Task Force.
- The URRT presented at 6 Conferences (3 - National, 1- Regional, 2- State):
 - NACCHO 360 - Presentation “Local Health Department Tour” given by Talisha Bacon (UDAF) and Delaney Moore (DHHS).
 - UEHA - Presentation “Multi Serotype Salmonella Outbreak in an International Grocery Store” given by Talisha Bacon (UDAF), Jessica Coats (UDAF), Andrea Gamble (SLCoHD), Delaney Moore, (UDHHS), and Stu Strock (SLCoHD).
 - FDA HAFW4 5 State Meeting- Presentation “Utah RRT Leading The Way For Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response” given by Thayne Mickelson (UDAF).
 - National RRT Conference- Presentation “Whole Genome Sequencing” given by Kelly Oakeson (UPHL).
 - InFORM- Presentation “Salmonellosis Outbreak at a Middle Eastern Grocery Store” given by Delaney Moore (UDHHS).
 - VOAD- Presentation “Working Together Through Disasters- ESF 11 and the Utah Rapid Response Team” given by Talisha Bacon (UDAF) and Thayne Mickelson (UDAF).

REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The program's purpose is to ensure that equity prevails in the marketplace and that commodities bought or sold are accurately weighed or measured and properly identified. A goal of the program is to prevent fraud by routinely conducting unannounced inspections and responding to consumer complaints. Inspectors are strategically located throughout the state to ensure marketplace equity prevails throughout Utah. There were 5,696 businesses in Utah with 68,169 weighing and measuring devices for the year 2023. The program actively pursues and registers all establishments that meet the requirements to be registered.

The program inspects scales, fuel pumps, vehicle tank meters, rack meters, high volume petroleum meters and propane meters. Almost every commodity imaginable is traded in some form of measurement, whether by weight, measure, count, length, etc. To ensure fairness from producer to the consumer, the Utah Weights and Measures Program is involved in almost every consumer transaction. The program assures consumers that the weight or measure of food and nonfood products, services, or commodities purchased in Utah is correct. To accomplish the program's purpose, we employ 18 people. This includes a Program Manager, a Secretary, a Metrologist, a Fuel Specialist, and 13 full-time Field Inspectors.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (NCWM)

All inspectors of the Weights and Measures program are active members of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM). The NCWM is the nation's consensus body that develops model weights and measures regulations adopted by Utah and the rest of the United States. This conference acts as a source of information and a forum for debate in the development of consensus standards for weighing and measuring devices, commodities sold by weight, measure, or count, in promoting the use of uniform laws and regulations, and administrative procedures.

REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

LARGE SCALES

In the state, there are over 2,080 large scales with a weight capacity of 1001 to 100,000 lbs. These scales can be used for railroad cars and conveyors, to cattle and cement plants. There are 3 inspectors dedicated to visiting these large scales, in sites ranging from mines to slaughter plants. Last year they inspected and certified 1,396 large scales throughout Utah

SMALL SCALES

We have six inspectors who split their time between Small Scales, Package Checking, and Price Verification. The state has 10,590 active scale devices weighing product from 0 to 1000 lbs. These scales can be found in places ranging from local markets to Cannabis farms. This year, there were 9,953 certified small scales.

PACKAGE CHECKING

Inspectors verify the net quantity of contents of packages kept, offered, or exposed for sale, or sold by weight, measure or count. Routine verification of the net contents of packages are important to facilitate value comparison and fair competition. Consumers have the right to expect packages to bear accurate net content information. Those manufacturers whose products are sold in such packages have the right to expect that their competitors will be required to adhere to the same standards. 190 packaged lots were inspected net content.

PRICE VERIFICATION

A total of 2,584 price verification inspections of retail check-out scanners were conducted. Our inspection program helps the consumer be confident that the price at which a product is advertised or displayed is the price they will be charged at the check-out counter. These inspections include but are not limited to grocery, hardware, general merchandise, drug, automotive supply, convenience, and warehouse club stores.

RETAIL FUEL PUMPS

Utah has 41,146 fuel devices throughout the state. We have 3 full time and 2 part time employees who are dedicated to checking and certifying fuel pump devices within the state boundaries. Their equipment and testing procedures are NIST approved. This year 30,801 devices were tested, 28,489 were certified and 401 failed. Additionally, 23 complaints on gas quantity were tested and responded to.



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

MOTOR FUEL LAB

Fuel quality is checked to verify that the consumer is getting the quality that is stated on the pump. Our lab is equipped with the latest state of the art analyzers. Using American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards and methods the lab can test vapor pressure and sulfur contents to ensure that fuels are meeting air quality requirements. The lab tests flash point, octane, water and sediment contents, distillation of fuel, cloud point, corrosiveness, and gravity, which determines the Drivability Index of the fuel. The results provide insurance to the consumers of Utah that the fuel is safe for their vehicle. The lab participates in the Rocky Mountain exchange and receives fuels from local refineries to build libraries of results to achieve the highest quality of testing. The lab pulls and analyzes samples from around the state as well as responding to consumer complaints. This year the lab pulled and analyzed 405 samples and handled 13 consumer complaints. Three samples were found out of compliance with ASTM standards. The stations were notified and the issues were corrected.

METROLOGY LAB

The Metrology lab is recognized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as an Echelon III Laboratory. The State Metrologist continues to test, record, and participates in Inter-laboratory comparisons to maintain NIST recognition and accreditation. Consumers, service techs and department inspectors rely on the services of this facility to certify equipment for the use of weight and volumetric measurement in commercial business. This year our lab moved to a new location and is in the process of achieving accreditation. It has been a lengthy process trying to balance temperature and humidity along with fitting new equipment to the new area. Many establishments are eager for the new lab to receive NIST Recognition. We are working to move from an Echelon III to an Echelon II lab.

PROPANE METERS

Our two Weights and Measures Liquefied Petroleum Gas inspectors provide inspections to all Utah Vendors dispensing LPG, either through dispensers, or delivery trucks. 240 propane meters were inspected throughout the state. These inspections included checking NIST- appropriate installation and calibration of propane dispensers and meters. Along with LPG, inspectors also inspected Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) devices. 26 CNG devices were inspected this year.



2023

UTAH AGRICULTURAL

STATISTICS



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