



State of Utah

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Lieutenant Governor

Department of Agriculture and Food

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Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Local Ag Listening Session September Theme: Agricultural Study Items

Date: September 18, 2024

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Utah State Capitol - East Senate Building
120 E Capitol St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Virtual Google Meet Joining Info: meet.google.com/qma-ikia-vyo

**Light refreshments will be provided.*

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/sept-local-ag-rsvp>

Agenda:

- 1. 10:30-10:40: Introductions**
- 2. 10:40-10:55: Southwest Regional Food Business Center Update** (*Dr. Karin Allen - USU Extension, Dr. Ruby Ward - USU Extension, Caroline Hargraves - UDAF*)

- 3. 10:55-11:55: Open Discussion - Agricultural Study Items**

Background: In the 2024 General Session, Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost sponsored [H.B. 525 Agricultural Amendments](#) which directed UDAF to study barriers and gaps related to increasing the availability of local food in the state and to report findings and recommendations to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee. Potential areas of focus included:

- the intra-state food supply chain;
- alternative and specialty crop production, including comparing the production value of alternative crop types and the economic impact to the state and to producers and the natural resource, infrastructure, and financial implications associated with changing from animal-feed crops to direct-to-consumer crops;

- iii. the agricultural workforce researching barriers to entry associated with careers in agriculture by reviewing current challenges, available resources, programs in other states that support individuals interested in pursuing careers in agriculture, and opportunities for new agricultural producers to use the expertise of existing agricultural producers and the potential for creating a small farm incubator program;
- iv. researching gaps in the state's food supply chain with respect to local food including aggregation, distribution, storage, refrigeration, and processing;
- v. and proposing potential funding solutions to address the issues identified by the department's research including recommendations for current state and federal money available, potential grant programs, and coordinating funding from state and federal sources.

The purpose of this discussion is to identify priorities, scope, roles and responsibilities for this and other future study items (legislative or otherwise).

4. 11:50-12:00 - Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- a. *Date, time, and theme suggestions for next meeting*

For Reference:

- [June 28, 2024 Local Ag Listening Session Agenda](#)
- [June 28, 2024 Local Ag Listening Session Recording](#)
- [2024 H.B. 525 Agricultural Amendments](#)

For any questions or comments, please contact Caroline Hargraves, carolinehargraves@utah.gov