

## FY26 On-Farm Funding Criteria Sheet

- The Agricultural Water Optimization Program is only available to agricultural irrigation water users with a valid water share or water right. This program is not for residential secondary irrigation systems or livestock watering systems.
- Projects must be located in Utah.
- A field must have been subject to a **reasonable attempt to irrigate the majority of its acreage for at least one full growing season within the look back period** of the last 5 years.
- All applicants must engage in a pre-consultation with the Utah Division of Water Rights.
- All projects will be ranked based on criteria approved by the Agricultural Water Optimization Committee and funding recommendations will be approved by the Utah Conservation Commission.
- All materials purchased for the Water Optimization Project must be new. Used equipment is not eligible for program funding.
- Fodder systems, hydroponic systems, any well drilling, or routine irrigation system maintenance (as determined by the Agricultural Water Optimization Committee) are not eligible practices for the program.
- Pivot end guns, reel guns or other large sprinklers are not eligible for program funding and cannot be included on any funded project. Projects with end guns, big guns or large sprinklers of any kind will not receive funding. UDAF may request funding back for projects that add any ineligible irrigation components to a completed project for a period of 15 years.
- Irrigation ponds must meet all local, state & federal safety regulations.
- It is the responsibility of the grantee to obtain all required permits, permissions and approvals associated with construction of the agricultural water optimization project. If all permits, permissions and approvals are not obtained UDAF may cancel the grant and require funds to be paid back.
- Every project requires a real time measurement device to be installed. Real-time means water measurement readings must be taken at a specified interval (hourly, daily) and the data from the meter must be downloadable. The measurement device must also be maintained for a minimum of 3 years.
- Annual reports must be submitted for a minimum of 3 years following project completion and use of the new system for a full irrigation season. If 3 years of annual reporting is not submitted, UDAF may request funding to be paid back.
- On-site inspections will be required for each project payment request. Inspections will be conducted by a UDAF planner. Upon project completion a final inspection and certification form must be filled out by both the UDAF planner and the grantee.
- All projects are subject to a State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) review. Projects that commence in any earth moving activity prior to proper SHPO clearance will automatically forfeit all funding.
- Cost share is available through the Water Optimization program. If other funding is obtained a minimum of 10% of the total project cost is required out of pocket for all projects.
- \$500,000 is the maximum request amount per entity per funding cycle for on-farm projects.
- 50% of the total funding awarded will be withheld until the project has been fully completed, including the installation of a real-time measurement device.
- Grant funds are distributed via reimbursement. Project spending must be tracked, and invoices must be submitted for all payment requests. Eligible invoices will be paid up to 50% of the total (or up to 75% for measurement, telemetry, and reporting projects), up to \$2,000/acre. All payment requests must be made through a UDAF planner.
- Grant funds are ineligible for the reimbursement of labor costs (time) incurred by the grantee or its officers. Nevertheless, these labor costs are permissible for inclusion toward the required in-kind match for the project.

- Project payments will only be made for irrigation items received or work completed, no prepayment of project components will be made.
- Payments cannot be requested more frequently than once per month.
- Grantee can submit a maximum of no more than 4 payment request for the project life
- In-kind labor (time) will not be reimbursed. All reimbursements must be from actual expenses incurred.
- If the land where the project is located is sold during project installation or annual reporting years, all or part of grant dollars may be requested to be paid back if the project cannot be transferred to the new owner and/or is no longer usable.
- Any modifications to the proposed project must be submitted in writing to Water Optimization staff to be reviewed for approval prior to the change being made.
- Applications cannot be combined for different project types. Each project type should be submitted as an individual application.
- Consult a certified public accountant for all tax related questions. UDAF will send out a 1099-SE annually if applicable.
- All partner funding must be reported before final payment.
- All projects must submit two bids. Grant awards will be based on the lower bid at the discretion of the Water Optimization Committee.
- UDAF may perform a technical review of any application.
- Projects under a contract extension are not eligible to submit an additional application.

Is the vendor currently receiving retirement benefits from Utah Retirement Systems (URS)?

- YES
- NO

Under UCA 49-11-12, (Post-Retirement Reemployment Restrictions Act), it is the responsibility of the State to identify and certify that a post-retired employee is working/providing services to the State of Utah. Violations of this act and failing to certify post-retirees with URS will result in a liability to the State for repayment of retirement benefits. Visit URS for more information ([urs.org/employerguide](http://urs.org/employerguide))

I certify that I have reviewed and understand the criteria sheet as it applies to my agricultural water optimization project.

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Signature

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Printed Name

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Date