

Top 10

Conservation Programs at Work

1 Agriculture Resource Development Loan (ARDL): The Utah ARDL program is a \$27 million revolving fund that provides low interest (3 percent) loans for projects with a conservation benefit. The goal of this state program is to help landowners conserve soil and water, increase yields, maintain and improve water quality, conserve and improve wildlife habitat, prevent flooding, develop on-farm energy projects and mitigate damages caused by natural disasters. A one-time 4 percent administrative fee is charged.

Contact:
UACD zone coordinator
or Richard Sandberg
Dept. of Agriculture & Food
(801) 538-7030
ag.utah.gov/conservation/agloans.html

2 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): EQIP, a federal Farm Bill program, offers financial, educational and technical assistance to help install or implement conservation practices in 1- to 10-year contracts. Cost sharing will pay from 50 to 75 percent of the costs. EQIP is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Contact:
Your local NRCS office,
UACD zone coordinator
or Tim Julander
NRCS
(801) 524-4561
ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs

3 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): CRP, a federal Farm Bill program, encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as native grasses and wildlife plantings. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost-sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices. CRP is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Contact:
Your local FSA office,
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or Lori Jones
FSA
(801) 524-4250
ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs

4 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants, Section 319 (319 Program): The 319 Program provides formula grants to the states to implement nonpoint source projects and programs in accordance with Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Formula grants are awarded to a lead agency in each state. States and local organizations are required to provide 40 percent of the total project or program cost. This EPA program is administered by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

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5 Grazing Improvement Program (GIP): This 2006 Utah Department of Agriculture and Food program provides grants to private landowners to improve range conditions and control weeds. The GIP program utilizes state grazing and weed boards to provide leadership to Utah's livestock industry and state and federal partners on rangeland a noxious weed issues.

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6 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): WHIP, a federal Farm Bill program, provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands.

Participants agree to implement a wildlife habitat development plan. Participants enter into a 5 to 10-year cost-share agreement for wildlife habitat development. Cost sharing will pay 75 percent of the cost. WHIP is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Contact:
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7 Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSW):

The Ground and Surface Water Conservation section of the EQIP program provides cost-share payments, incentive payments and loans to producers to carry out eligible activities to improve or enhance irrigation efficiencies, convert to production of less water-intensive agricultural commodities, such as dryland farming, improving storage water through water banking and groundwater recharge. This program is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. To qualify, the assistance must facilitate a conservation measure resulting in net savings in ground or surface water.

Contact:
Your local NRCS office,
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ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs

8 Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP):

FRPP is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture by providing matching funds to purchase conservation easements. The land must contain prime, unique or other productive soil or historical or archeological resources, be privately owned and be large enough to sustain agricultural production. This program is administered by the NRCS.

Contact:
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9 Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP): WRP, a federal farm bill program, is a voluntary program to restore wetlands.

Landowners can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30-year duration or can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange, the landowner receives a percentage of payment or cost of restoring the wetlands, depending on the agreement. The program is administered by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Contact:
Your local NRCS office,
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Or
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10 Utah Grazingland Network (UGN): The UGN is a coalition of private non-profit organizations, university and agencies representing livestock grazers formerly organized as the Utah Grazingland Conservation Initiative (GLCI). Livestock producers, county weed

departments, conservation districts and various other entities have utilized these funds for projects to improve Utah's rangeland. Scholarships are available for producers to attend management or monitoring trainings.

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UACD
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More Top 10

Conservation Programs at Work

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Nonpoint Source Financial Assistance Program: This program provides loans and/or grants for water quality improvement projects including lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. Individuals, businesses, corporations, associations, private entities and government agencies are eligible for loans and grants. Loans are usually provided at 0% interest. Grants are intended for activities that address a critical water quality need or human health concern. These NPS funds can provide match for other funding sources including 319 grants, ARDL loans, and other state and federal funds.

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Division of Water Quality
(801) 538-6516
waterquality.utah.gov

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Partners for Fish and Wildlife: Partners for Fish and Wildlife provides cost-share dollars to farmers and ranchers interested in increasing production while improving wildlife habitat. This private lands program provides funding through cost-share agreements for 10-30 years for both uplands and wetlands. Projects can include fencing, water development, re-establishment of riparian habitat, installation of water control structures and others. Partners for Fish and Wildlife is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Contact:
UACD zone coordinator
or
Karl Fleming
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(435) 723-5887, Ext. 22
fws.gov/partners/

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Continuous CRP Sign-up: The continuous CRP Sign-up, a federal Farm Bill program, helps landowners install conservation buffers along streams and waterways. The program applies to cropland, as well as overgrazed, eroded pasture along streams, lakes and wetlands. The program offers cost-sharing for conservation practice installation and annual rental payment. The program is administered by USDA FSA.

Contact:
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fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm

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PL-566 Watershed Protection Program: This federal Program provides cost-share funds for land treatment measures to develop and conserve soil, water, woodlands, wildlife, energy and recreation resources on the land. Structural measures for flood prevention, recreation facilities and water quality improvements can be implemented on a watershed basis working with local and state agencies in small watersheds. The program is administered by the USDA NRCS.

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