

Programmatic Updates UDAF

Jim Bowcutt
Director, Conservation Division
Zone Meetings, Zone 1 & 2
March 7, 2024



AgVIP Program

- This program focuses on nutrient management, specifically animal waste, but could include commercial fertilizer as well.
- Program Received \$1 million in legislative session
- Program is looking to include other practices besides just nutrient management.
- Currently determining when applications will be accepted.

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Soil Health Program

Soil health is so important when it comes to farming, no matter what scale. Improved soil health will:

- Improve crop yields
- Improve water holding capacity of soil
- Reduce soil loss
- Improve water quality

In-Field Soil Health Assessment

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Ag. Water Optimization

- 392 total applications received in spring 2024 application period
- \$59,111,423 In total requests.
- 50 applications from canal/irrigation companies.
- Should announce grant recipients end of March.
- It is unknown when the next round of funding will occur. Likely spring of 2025.

Utah Native Pollinator Habitat Program

Pollinator Plant Distribution

- The 2024 application period runs March 1 through April 15, 2024.
- All applicants must submit through our online application form. Other forms of applying will not be accepted.
- Minimum space requirement of 900 square feet needed for consideration
- Each separate project requires a separate application
- Applicants must agree to a 3-year follow-up period

To apply go to the UDAF website:
<https://ag.utah.gov/pollinator-habitat-program/>



PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS
Building Healthy Habitats with Utah Native Plants

Desert Marigold
Baileya multiradiata

Common Native Bee Species

Leaf Cutter Bee
(Megachile spp.)
• Small to medium size (1/4-1/2")
• Nests in existing holes in ground, twigs, soil, or plant stems.
• Active from April-October

Mason Bee
(Cremata spp.)
• Small to large size (1/4-5/4")
• Nests in holes in wood
• Active from March-June

Wool Carder Bees
(Anthidium spp.)
• Medium size (1/2")
• Builds nests from woolly plant hairs.
• Active from May-September

Large Carpenter Bees
(Xylocopa spp.)
• Large size (5/4")
• Chews holes in wood for nests
• Active from April-October

Small Carpenter Bees
(Cercaria spp.)
• Small size (1/4")
• Nests in hollow plant stems
• Active from June-September

Mining Bees
(Family: Andrenidae)
• Small to medium size (3/4-1/2")
• Nests underground
• Active from March-September

Digger Bees
(Andrygona spp.)
• Large size (5/4")
• Digs burrows into dry soil
• Active from March-October

Bumble Bees
(Bombus spp.)
• Most are large in size (3/4-1"), some medium (1/2")
• Nests in plant stems, woody debris, underground
• Active from June-September

Profile: Provides year round interest and thrives in poor, dry soils and extreme heat. Host for the desert marigold moth (*Scythris nemoralis*). Some records show that Puebloan people historically used the plant in wolf-slay when making medicine. Others may have used the plant as a deodorant.

Water: Very low. Irrigation is not required, once established.

Soil: Sandy and/or rocky, alkaline soil.

Propagation: Plant outside in spring or summer. Pre-treatment of seeds is not necessary. Germination may be improved by two weeks of cold moist stratification.

Maintenance: Thrives in organic mulches such as gravel or decomposed granite. Reseeds readily. Clip seed heads to prevent spread or leave them for winter interest and as a food supply for birds. Cut down stalks in early spring.

Landscape use: Desert gardens, terraces, rock gardens, borders, pollinator gardens, naturalistic gardens, border plantings.

ANNUAL WILDFLOWERS

26



Agricultural Resource Development Loan (ARDL) Program

The ARDL program provides low interest loans to farmers and ranchers for projects which meet the conservation and pollution control goals of the program.

Some examples of eligible projects are:

- Irrigation systems
- Rangeland Improvements
- Reseeding a Watershed
- Wind Erosion Control
- Animal manure management
- Riparian improvement
- Selected crop and food storage
- Hydroponic and aquaponic projects

Current Interest rates:

2.75% for loans > \$104,000
3.00% for loans \$52,001-103,999
3.25% for loans <\$52,000

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Land Conservation Program

- LeRay McAllister Easement program received \$1 million on-going for Conservation Easements.
- Will be accepting applications this summer for interested landowners.
- Jeremy is currently working with landowners, and doing webinars on succession planning. We will inform resource coordinators on dates and times soon.

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Questions???

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