

# Request for Appropriation Agricultural Research

NRAEQ Appropriations Subcommittee  
January 30, 2024



# Research Needs

As the agricultural community continues to identify what they can do to help reduce depletion in the Great Salt Lake watershed, it has become apparent that additional research is needed to:

- Understand and collect better baseline data on current irrigation practices.
- Determine how to better measure and report depletion savings.
- Consider what monitoring improvements can be made to better understand the amount of water present in the basin.
- Consider which irrigation practices and systems will result in the highest depletion savings.
- Consider the feasibility of certain irrigation practices.
- Consider what the market for saved water might look like.
- Consider the possibility and impacts of split season leasing or seasonal leasing.

# Budget

- **Total Request: \$400,000 Ongoing**
  - 2 FTE for USU staff members to oversee research: \$200,000
  - On-farm research: \$200,000 (monitoring, supplies, equipment, etc.)



# Funding Request

- Funding will be passed through from UDAF to USU.
- All proposed research will be presented to the Agricultural Water Optimization Committee (SB277).
- All research findings will be reported to the Agricultural Water Optimization Committee.
- UDAF will report on number of research projects funded and completed annually.

