



# NRAEQ Appropriations Subcommittee

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
January 30, 2024





# UDAF Mission

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To support the development of Utah's agriculture and food industries, serve as a steward of our natural resources, safeguard public health, protect consumers, and ensure a quality food supply.



# UDAF Divisions

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Office of the  
Commissioner

Administrative  
Services

Animal  
Industry

Conservation

Grazing  
Improvement  
Program

Industrial  
Hemp and  
Medical  
Cannabis

Laboratory  
Services

Marketing and  
Economic  
Development

Plant Industry

Regulatory  
Services

# Executive Office Team

**Commissioner - Craig  
Buttars**

**Deputy Commissioner  
- Kelly Pehrson**

**Executive Assistant  
- Amanda Peterson**

**Public Information  
Officer - Bailee Haslam**

**Director, Legislative and  
Government Affairs -  
Amber Brown**

**Internal Auditor - John  
Keller**

**Senior Policy Analyst -  
Conner Peterson**

**Policy Analyst - Camille  
Knudson**

**Internal Audit Intern -  
Amber Hardrath**

# Annual Accomplishments

County Commission Visits



# Annual Accomplishments

Ag Talk Podcast



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD'S

**Ag Talk**  
PODCAST

- Podcast launched on August 14, 2023
- 13 episodes have been released
- Covered topics from Ag Water Use to UDAF Program Highlights
- Over 1,000 downloads
- Can be found on all podcast listening platforms. Visit [podcast.ag.utah.gov](http://podcast.ag.utah.gov)

# Food Security Processing Grant

**Purpose:** to address Utah's extreme lack of processing infrastructure and increase in-state processing of Utah-produced agricultural products. The program benefits the entire supply chain - producers, processors, and consumers.



Utah's Meat, Fruit,  
and Vegetable  
Sectors are in  
Greatest Need of  
Additional In-State  
Processing

# Food Security Processing Grant Background



2022

## First \$1,000,000 Appropriated

- \$14 million requested
- 17 grants awarded
- Range: \$10k-\$150k
- Approx. 50/50 split between meat and fruit, veg, dairy, and other



2023

## Add'l \$1,000,000 Appropriated

- \$10 million requested
- 21 grants awarded
- Range: \$1,900-\$150k
- 70% meat processors & 30% fruit, veg, dairy, and other



2024

## \$1,000,000 Recommended in Governor's Budget

Purchases include bottling equipment, hide pullers, patty machines, juicing equipment, washing equipment, grinders, sausage making equipment, and more.

# Food Security Processing Grant Program:

**\$1,000,000  
Building Block  
Request**



“When we are at full capacity, we are slaughtering up 832 more beef a year and 300 more pigs. We have increased our harvesting capacity by an average of 90% by way of decreasing the time and labor necessary in the harvesting process.” — *Davis Custom Meats*

“With the walk in cooler we added space to hold 10 more beef and the freezer ensures that we can freeze all the added capacity. We have an extra 3-5 beef per week on the schedule for an added ability to process up to 200 more animals per year. An increase of up to 40%.” — *Sunnyfield Meats*

# Performance Measures: Commissioner's Office

## Measure Name

Continuous Improvement Projects

## Measure Description

Successful completion of an agency wide continuous improvement project. Striving towards continuous improvement helps the department find better ways to achieve goals and implement the strategic plan.

## Result

Manager trainings were held in November 2022 and May 2023 which has helped us do a better job disseminating important information to department managers, including policy and legislative changes, helping us to preemptively address potential areas of concern.

# UDAF Administration Services Division



# Administrative Services Division

- **Provides support so other divisions can achieve their goals**
  - Financial and Budgetary
  - Compliance
  - Fleet
  - IT Coordination
  - Contract Management
- **Performance Measures**
  - Reduce audit findings: decreased to 0
  - Improve fee data reporting: At least 90% of fees submitted with accurate revenue and expense data.



# Division Successes

- **Fee Project**
  - Cost Accounting Implementation
  - Detailed Coding Changes
  - Monthly Monitoring
- **Agriculture Information Management System (AIMS) Project using the Salesforce Platform**
  - The Organics Program product application review reduced from 1.5 hours average per review to 30 minutes, saving about 1 hour per review.
  - With the implementation AIMS, the data is now housed in a managed database and is consistent for all programs.
  - Feedback from inspectors indicates application reviews and approvals are easier and less time consuming.
- **Continuous Improvement Prioritized**

# Financial Requests

- AIMS Salesforce Project Implementation
  - Majority of costs covered with existing fund - Nonlapsing balances and Dedicated Credits
  - Request for Industrial Hemp Program additional \$170,000 Dedicated Credit authority.
- Grazing Improvement Program allocation request from Rangeland Improvement GFR to line item for projects in progress
  - Project completion delays
- Various technical adjustments to align funding with anticipated expenses

# Plant Industry Division



# Plant Industry Programs & Services

Animal Feed

Fertilizer

Fruit & Vegetable  
Inspection

Grain Inspection

Seed Program

Invasive Species  
Mitigation (ISM)

Bee Inspection

Nursery Inspection

Insect & Plant Disease  
Quarantine/Inspection

Noxious Weed

Cricket/Grasshopper  
Suppression

Phytosanitary  
Inspections and  
Certificates (for export)

Organic  
Certification

Produce Safety  
(FSMA)

Pesticide Applicator  
Testing &  
Enforcement Seed

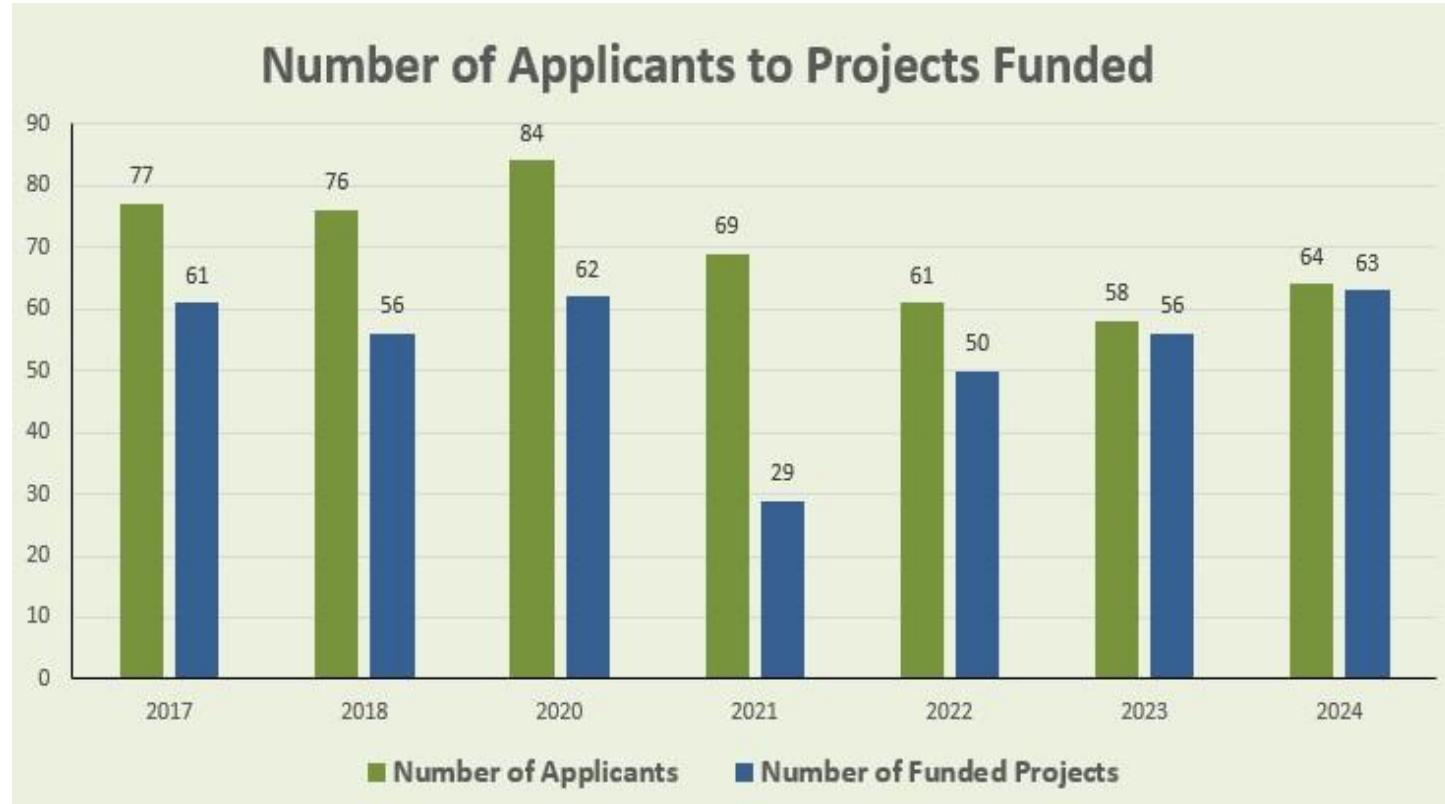
# Performance Measures (Plant Industry Line)

Fertilizer Compliance Violation Rate	
Target Value	Achieved Value
5%	21%

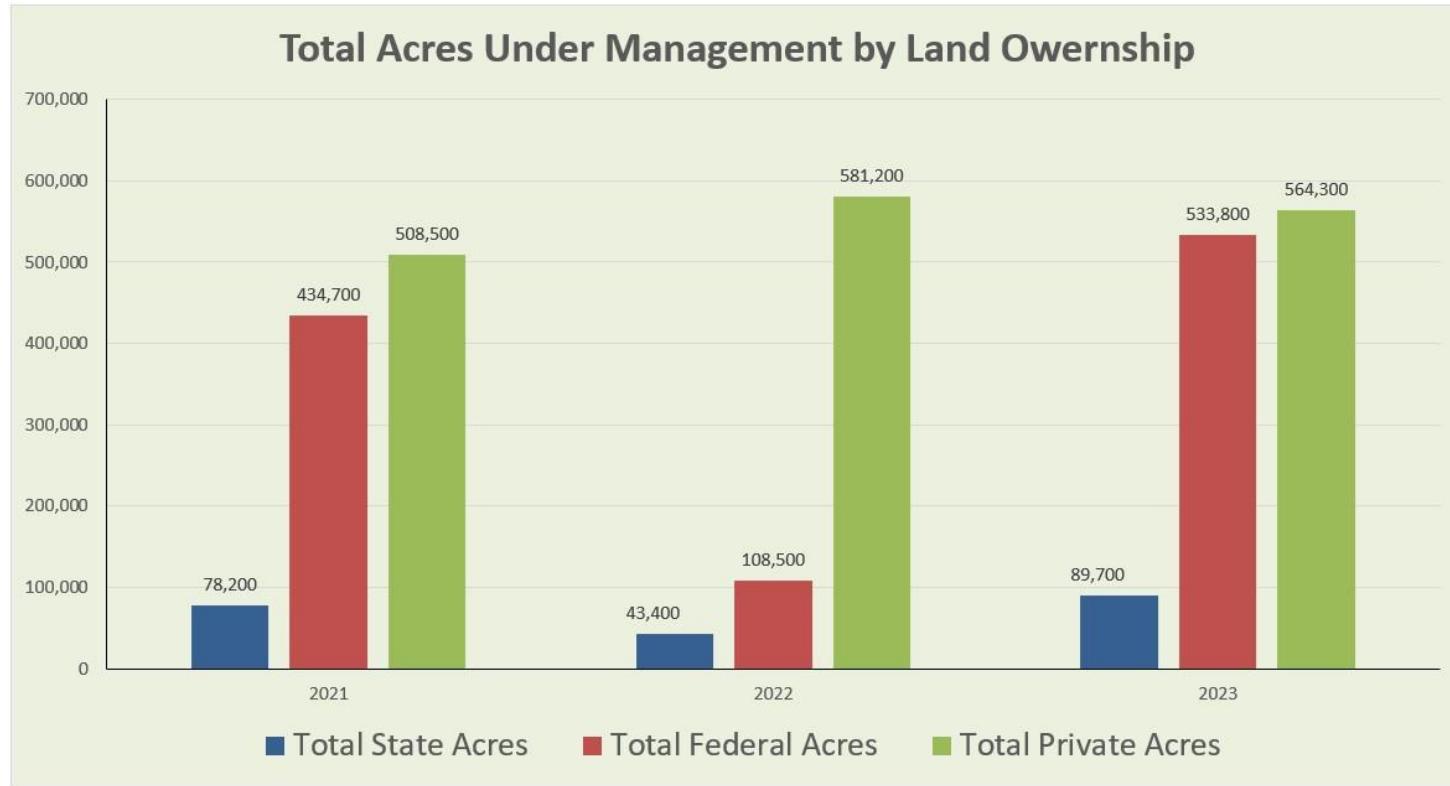
Pesticide Compound Enforcement Action rate	
Target value	Achieved Value
20%	35%

Seed Compliance Violation Rate	
Target Value	Achieved Value
10%	11%

# Invasive Species Mitigation Successes (ISM):

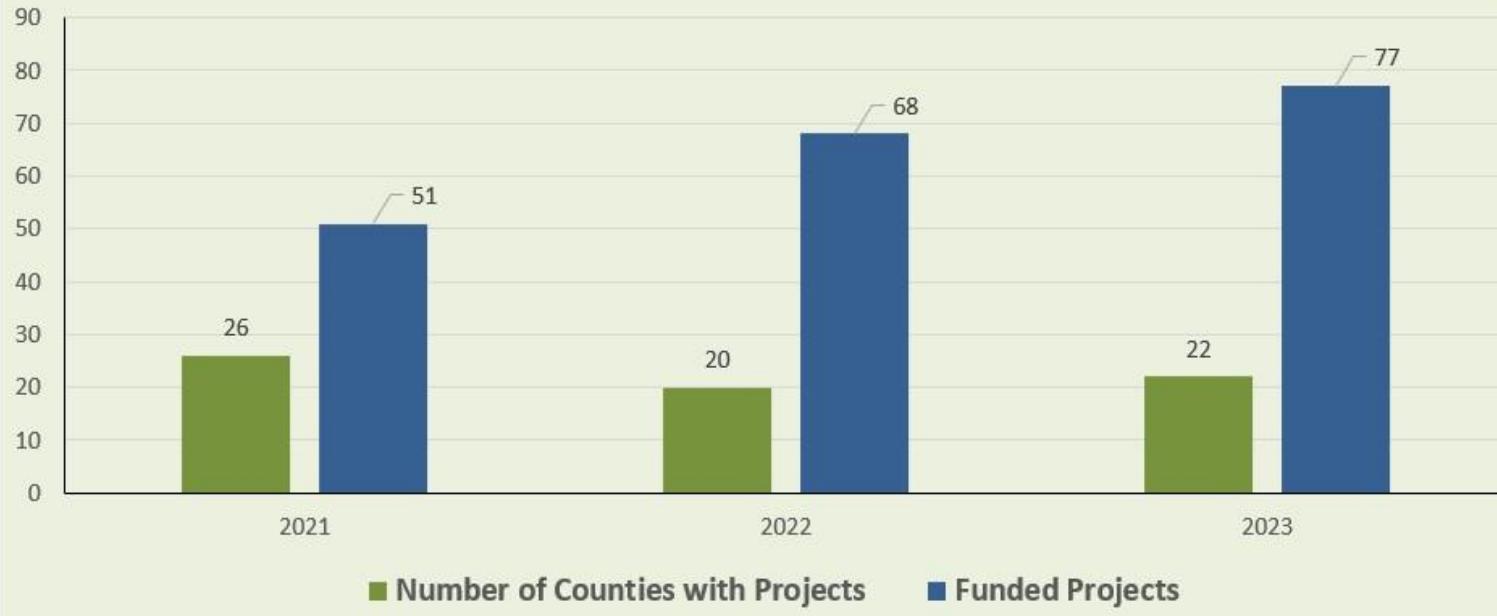


# ISM Successes:



# ISM Successes:

## Statewide Coverage (County) vs Awarded Projects



# Performance Measures (ISM Line)

EDRR Points Treated	
Goal	Actual
40% Increase	96% Increase

Population Invasiveness	
Goal	Actual
25% Increase	13% Increase

Treatment Monitoring Results	
Goal	Actual
100%	100%

# Plant Industry Intent Language Request

- Purchase one small SUV and two midsize trucks
- Purchase with Dedicated Credits
- Replace Fleet rentals that have been kept for too long



# Plant Industry Concern

- Inland port
  - Estimating staffing needs to provide service for exporting agricultural products.
    - Minimum of 1 year of experience as an inspector
    - International requires USDA certification to write export documentation



# Conservation Division



# Conservation Division Programs

**Agricultural Resource  
Development Loan  
(ARDL)**

**Conservation Districts**

**Rural Rehabilitation  
Loan Program**

**Agricultural Voluntary  
Incentive Program  
(AgVIP)**

**Land Conservation  
Program**

**Salinity Program**

**Agricultural Water  
Optimization Program**

**Pollinator Habitat  
Program**

**Soil Health Program**

# Conservation Division

## **46 Total Employees**

- Currently managing 560 projects- totaling \$84,409,958

## **Performance Measure:**

- 124 projects completed in FY-23.

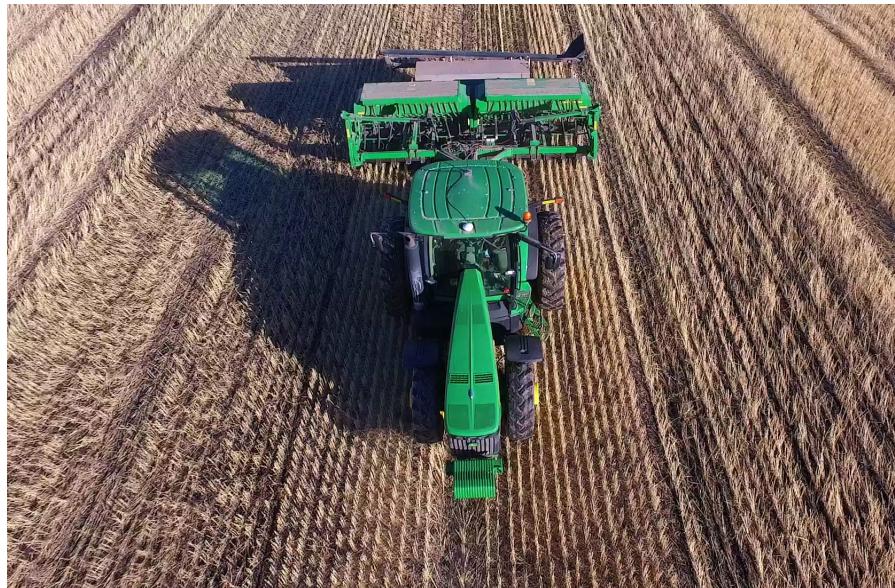
## **Funding Request:**

- \$325,000 ongoing originally requested to be reallocated from ARDL Sales Tax Earmark to cover staffing needs.
- Have been working with legislature to secure \$200,000 in general funding, and will use internal funding to cover remaining \$125,000.
- \$86,000 one-time funding from ARDL will be used to purchase two additional vehicles.



# Agricultural Voluntary Incentive Program (AgVIP)

- Currently have 123 total contracts, with \$2,574,699 obligated.
- 77,676 acres managed under a nutrient management plan, exceeded initial goal of 50,000 acres.
- UDAF surveyed producers exiting the program. 100% felt AgVIP was “worthwhile” or “very worthwhile.”
- Looking to expand AgVIP to include other management practices (ie, soil health, irrigation water management, grazing management).
- Requesting \$1 million for AgVIP in FY25.



# Ag Water Optimization

- 330 projects funded to date through the program.
- 98 projects completed.
- 24 of the completed projects have been fully constructed and used for at least one full irrigation season (April 15 - Oct. 1).
- \$63,957,582 has been contracted.
- \$20,991,899 has been paid out.
- Anticipate contracting an additional \$30,000,000 in ARPA funding within the next few months.
- A water audit was recently conducted by GOPB. UDAF has agreed to:
  - Develop a strategic programmatic plan (October 31, 2024)
  - Obtain all annual reports by 2024

## Performance Measures Met:

- 100% of completed projects have a real-time flow meter installed.
- 36.5% projected reduction in water use averaged across all completed projects. This number is provided by the applicant as a range of estimated water savings and the most conservative number is used
- UDAF Requesting \$400,000 ongoing to fund research related to Ag. Water Optimization.

# Utah Soil Health Program

## Soil Health Equipment Grant - \$1 Million

- 45 Application Received (25 Counties) - Total Funding Request \$1,448,162
- 33 Application Funded (21 Counties)

## Soil Health Conservation Innovation Grants (CHG) - \$3.5 Million

- 17 Demonstration farms active - all sites have soil health plans and have been baseline tested.

## In-Field Soil Health Assessment Project

- 100 In-Field assessment requested in 22 Counties

## Outreach and Education Efforts

- Participated in 59 education events to date with over 3600 attendees
- Assisted over 117 Producers with one-on-one technical assistance, representing over 74,000 acres.



# Utah Pollinator Program

## Pollinator Plant Distribution

- Received 293 applications in FY-24, 223 were given native plants.
- Distributed 30,000 live native plants.

## Outreach and Education

- Created native plant/pollinator booklet.
- Created Pollinator 101 pamphlet.
- Continue to receive ample traffic on website.
  - 19,344 visits in past year.



### PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

Building Healthy Habitats with Utah Native Plants



Utah Pollinator Habitat Program

Common Native Bee Species	
 Leaf Cutter Bee (Megachile spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Small to medium size (1/4-1/2")</li><li>Nests in existing holes in ground, trees, soil, or plant stems</li><li>Active from April–October</li></ul>	 Mason Bee (Osmia spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Small to medium size (1/4-5/4")</li><li>Nests in holes in wood</li><li>Active from March–June</li></ul>
 Wool Carder Bee (Anthidium spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Medium size (1/2")</li><li>Builds nests from woolly plant hairs</li><li>Active from May–September</li></ul>	 Large Carpenter Bee (Xylocopa spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Large size (5/4")</li><li>Chews holes in wood for nests</li><li>Active from April–October</li></ul>
 Small Carpenter Bees (Ceratinia spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Small size (1/4")</li><li>Nests in hollow plant stems</li><li>Active from June–September</li></ul>	 Mining Bees (Family: Andrenidae) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Small to medium size (1/4-1/2")</li><li>Nests underground</li><li>Active from March–September</li></ul>
 Digger Bees (Anthophora spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Large size (5/4")</li><li>Digs burrows into dry soil</li><li>Active from March–October</li></ul>	 Bumble Bees (Bombus spp.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Most are large in size (5/4-1") some medium size (1/2")</li><li>Nests in plant stems, woody debris, underground</li><li>Active from June–September</li></ul>

# Agricultural Resource Development Loan (ARDL) Program

## Current Interest Rates:

- 2.75% for loans > \$104,000
- 3.00% for loans \$52,001-103,999
- 3.25% for loans <\$52,000
- There are currently 50 pending loans for FY-2024 totaling \$7,615,090 in requests.

	FY-2023	FY-2024*
Total Loans	21	17
Amount	\$3,075,430	\$4,525,143
Loans w/optimization grants	8	5
Amount w/optimization grants	\$1,729,230	\$1,182,643

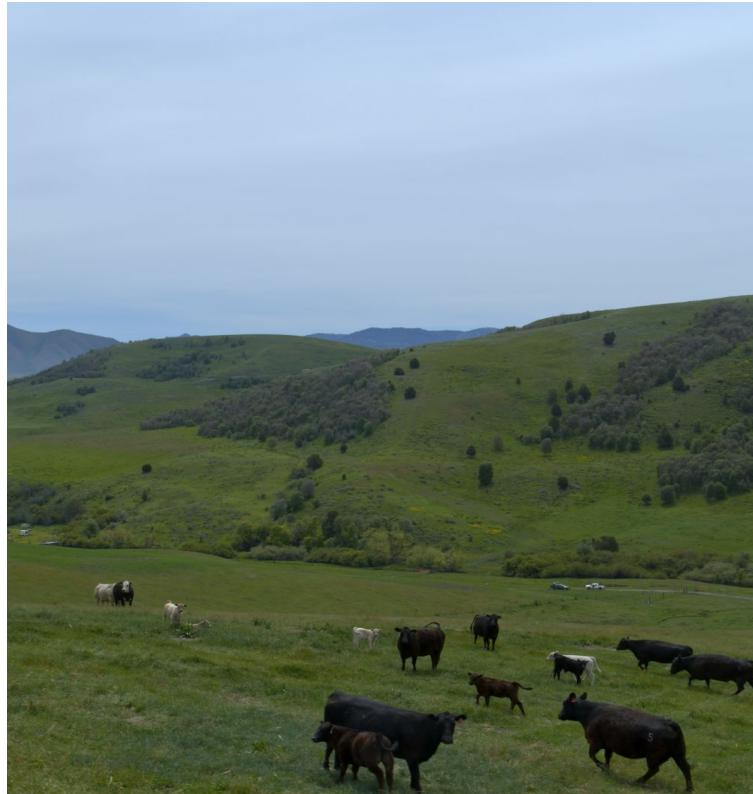
\*There are 6 months remaining in FY24

# Land Conservation Program

## LeRay McAllister Working Farm and Ranch Fund FY-2023

### Accomplishments

- \$2,187,558 in grants approved by Land Conservation Board for 5 new conservation easement acquisitions.
- Protected over 2,037 new acres of working farm and ranch lands.
- \$16,690,500 total project cost, 8:1 leverage of the **LeRay McAllister** funds in FY-2023.
- Currently \$50-100 Million in additional funding needed for conservation easement projects. These easements could conserve more than 250,000 acres in the next 10 years.
- Requesting \$5 million one-time funding for the **LeRay McAllister Working Farm and Ranch Program**.



# Analytical Laboratory Division



# Laboratory Services Division

The Laboratory Services Division provides analytical services to the other divisions within UDAF as well as other agencies.

## UDAF Program:

Dairy

Feed

Fertilizer

Hemp

Cannabis

Pesticides

URRT

Federal  
Meat

State  
Meat

Kratom

## Outside Testing:

- Cyanotoxin testing for agricultural and recreational water bodies.
- Quality Assurance testing for medical cannabis producers.
- Hemp product testing for Utah hemp producers.

# Performance Measures

Measure Name	Measure Description	Target Value	Outcome
Laboratory Equipment Replacement Rate	% of laboratory equipment that needs to be replaced at the end of fiscal year.	0% of equipment needing replacement at end of fiscal year	All lab equipment is functional and is being maintained appropriately
Timeliness of Laboratory Test Results	Timeliness of Laboratory Test Results	100% of test results completed within 10 days	100%
Medical Cannabis Laboratory Certification			Certification was delayed by turnover in the microbiology team and in the quality assurance position. Good progress has been made by the staff and we expect to achieve certification in FY2024.
	Obtain ISO 17025:2017 certification	Certification obtained	
Medical Cannabis Sample Collection Timeliness	% of samples collected within seven business days of request	100%	100%
Total Tests	Total Number of Tests (excluding cannabis)	10,000 per fiscal year	8687
Total Samples	Total number of samples (excluding cannabis)	3,700 per fiscal year	4368

# Laboratory Services Division

- **Successes**

- Maintained good staffing levels in both the Chemistry and Microbiology Labs despite some turnover
- Maintained good turnaround times despite a substantial increase in medical cannabis and hemp product samples
- Expanded cannabinoid testing panel
- Increased total cannabinoid sample throughput
- Expanded pathogen testing capabilities

- **Challenges**

- Turnover in the Microbiology lab and increased sample load delayed ISO 17025 accreditation
- Difficulty retaining sampling technicians for medical cannabis
- Cost increases for supplies have led to challenges with purchasing limits

# Utah Medical Cannabis Program



# Medical Cannabis & Hemp Success Items

- Completed part of the initial development and implementation of the Salesforce AIMS system encompassing licensure and inspections.
- Cannabis - Implementing an Inventory Control System to replace the current one that has caused issues for the industry and does not allow the State to gather all required information.
- Cannabis - Pursuing a third party market analysis with the goal to bring patients back into the program.



# Cannabis Performance Measures

- Cannabis Performance Measures:
  - Inspect Medical Cannabis Production Establishments to validate compliance with state statute and rules.
  - Use sampling procedures to ensure medical cannabis products are safe for consumption.
  - Support the medical cannabis industry in distributing products to pharmacies by responding to Licensed Cannabis Facility and Agent requests within 5 business days.



# Cannabis Production Program

- The top priorities of the Cannabis Production Program are: **Patient safety, Patient protection, and Prohibit Diversion.**
- The Cannabis Production Program has four types of facilities that can be found in the following counties: Box Elder, Sevier, Tooele, Utah, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, Sanpete, and Wasatch.

## Types of Production Facilities

Facility Type	Quantity
Cultivators	8
Processors	15
Intent to License Processors	2
Testing Lab	1

# Cannabis Production Program

- During calendar year 2023, 103,302 lbs of cannabis biomass was received by processing facilities to be manufactured into cannabis products.
- Processor sent 3.2 million units of medical cannabis products to pharmacies.
- Dosage Forms: tablets; capsules; concentrated liquid or viscous oil; liquid suspension; topical preparation; transdermal preparation; sublingual preparation; gelatinous cube; resin or wax; aerosol.

## Cannabis Grown by Licensees

Wet Weight	Packaged Weight
362,374 lbs.	98,109 lbs.

## Cannabis products sent to pharmacies:

Facility Type	Quantity
Cartridges/Pens	1,253,122
Concentrate	92,298
Flower	2989,355
Infused edible	878,625
Infused non edibles	30,983

# Cannabis Production Program

The department is still operating as an independent cannabis testing laboratory under Section 4-41a-201, because only one other lab is licensed.

All Product lots and batches were tested in 2023.

	APRC Tests	Utah State Lab
Passed	5,640	1,248
Failed	51	7
Total	5,691	1,255



# Cannabis Production Program

**368 Total Inspections Performed in 2023 by UDAF Inspectors (Sept-Dec pharmacy visits included)**

	2022	2023
Cultivation	97	112
Processor	140	151
Pharmacy	na	29
Courier	na	2
Lab	10	11
Label	na	63

**Violations Have Decreased**

	2022	2023
Cultivation Infractions	176 (43% reduction)	101
Processor Infractions	246 (24% reduction)	186
Laboratory Infractions	11 (27% reduction)	8

# Cannabis Pharmacies Program

The priorities of the Pharmacies Program are: ensure adequate supply, quality, and variety of medical cannabis is available to medical cannabis cardholders.

## Concerning Findings:

1. Pharmacies selling products against recommending medical providers recommendations.
2. Security related to camera blind spots.

## Things to figure out for pharmacies:

Keeping pharmacies serving patients in their current locations

Serving current and future patients in all regions of the state

Number of types of pharmacies	
Urban	7
Urban Home Delivery	2
Rural	4
Rural Home Delivery	2
Couriers	2
Infractions found	23

Number of Inspections of Pharmacies & Couriers	
Pharmacy	29
Courier	2

# Industrial Hemp Program



# Industrial Hemp Performance Measures

The priorities of the Hemp program are: public safety, consumer safety, fair and equitable market, separation from high thc (medical) market.

## Industrial Hemp Performance Measures

1. Ensure that hemp products introduced into the Utah marketplace are registered, as measured by retail inspections resulting in a non-registered product rate of less than 15 percent, annually.
2. Conduct product potency inspections throughout the calendar year to measure accuracy in marketing.
3. Conduct inspections of licensed industrial hemp processors to validate compliance of processors and safety of hemp products.



# Industrial Hemp Program

## Number of each type of license

Processors	2023	2022
Retailers	1630	1675
Tier 1 Processor	65	92
Tier 2 Processor	4	1
Tier 3 Processor	8	3
Tier 4 Processor	38	5
Total Processors	115	101

## Number of Inspections

Inspections	2023	2022
Retailers	552	398
Total Processors	198	189

# Industrial Hemp Program

## Performance Measure

- 122 samples taken for potency compliance

## **Number of Violations (notices)**

<b>Violations</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Retailers	147	120
Unregistered products found	759	
State processors	47	34
Manufactured violations	101	

## **Number of Products Registered**

**2023**  
974

**2022**

1978 \*drop due to only cannabinoid products needing registration and stricter regulations.

Major noncompliant findings in the program = Unregistered and illegal products

# Illegal and Unregistered Products and COAs



Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
**Division of Laboratory Services**  
 4451 South 2700 West  
 Taylorsville, Utah 84129  
 (801) 816-3840

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

### Sample Information

UDAF Lab #	HP24008-1	Issue Date:	01/17/2024
Client:	UDAF Hemp	Client Email:	jesse.smith@utah.gov
Producer:	Wild Cannabis	Sample Type:	Packaged Flower
Description:			
Description:	Plant Puff, Delta 8 Infused Moon Rock, Indica, White Zerbert, 7g		
Batch/Lot Number:	850046904172	Date Received:	01/08/2024
Date Collected:	01/08/2024	Collected By:	Jesse Smith

Notes: <https://mycannaplug.com>



### Testing Summary

Status: FAIL

Analyte	Abbreviation	CAS Number	% (w/w)	mg/g
Δ9-Tetrahydrocannabinol	Δ9-THC	1972-08-03	3.26%	32.6
Δ8-Tetrahydrocannabinol	Δ8-THC	5957-75-5	16.54%	165.4
Δ9-Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid	THCA	23978-85-0	0.09%	0.9
Δ9-Tetrahydrocannabivarin	THCV	31262-37-0	NQ	NQ
Cannabidiol	CBD	13956-29-1	2.73%	27.3
Cannabidiolic acid	CBDA	1244-58-2	5.43%	54.3
Cannabidivarin	CBDV	24274-48-4	ND	ND
Cannabinol	CBN	521-35-7	0.22%	2.2
Cannabigerol	CBG	25654-31-3	0.10%	1
Cannabichromene	CBC	20675-51-8	0.17%	1.7
Cannabigerolic acid	CBGA	25555-57-1	0.51%	5.1
Cannabichromenic acid	CBCA	20408-52-0	NQ	NQ
Cannabicitran	CBTC	31508-71-1	0.08%	0.8
9(R+S)-Δ6a,10a-Tetrahydrocannabinol	Δ3-THC	95720-01-07, 95720-02-8	ND	ND
(6aR,9R)-Δ10-Tetrahydrocannabinol	(6aR,9R)-Δ10-THC	95543-62-7	ND	ND
(6aR,9S)-Δ10-Tetrahydrocannabinol	(6aR,9S)-Δ10-THC	95588-87-7	NQ	NQ
<b>Total Cannabinoids</b>				29.13% 291.30
Total THC				3.34% 33.4
Total CBD				7.49% 74.90
Total THC Analogs				19.96% 199.6

Unknown Cannabinoid Peak Area: 3.1%

Status: FAIL

# Illegal and Unregistered Products and COAs



# Illegal and Unregistered Products and COAs



# Illegal and Unregistered Products and COAs



# Focus on Patients and Industry

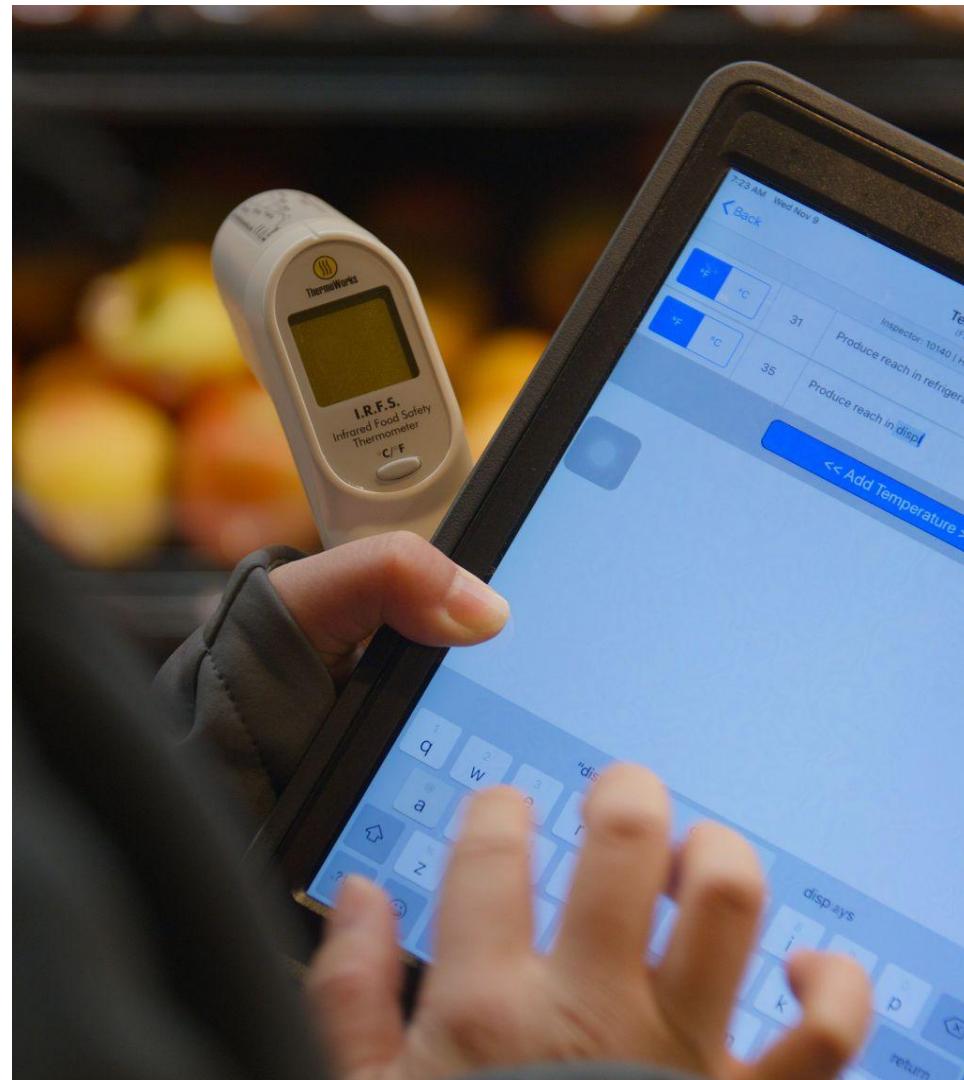
H.B. 52 Industrial Hemp Amendments

S.B. 71 Cannabis Business Tax Credit Amendments

H.B. 389 Cannabis Pharmacy Modifications

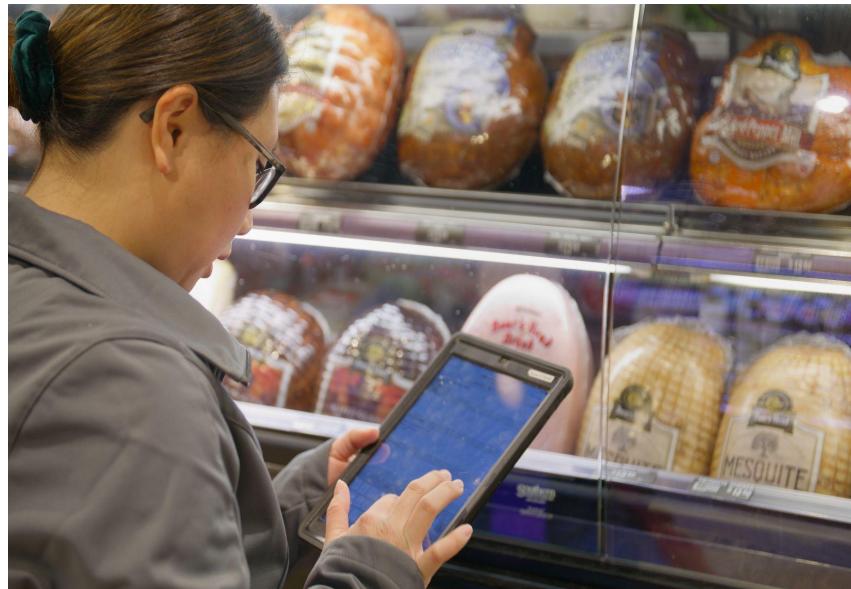


# Regulatory Services Division



# Regulatory Services Programs

- Bedding, Upholstered Furniture, and Quilted Clothing
- Food and Dairy Programs
  - Cottage & Homemade Food Production
  - Dairy Program
  - Retail Food
  - Manufactured Food
  - Food Safety and Compliance
- Kratom
- Utah Rapid Response Team (URRT)
- Weights and Measures



# Regulatory Services Performance Measures

FY2023 Performance Measures	Target Value	Outcome
Dairy Farms - Critical Violations Observed Reduction	25% of Current	11.4%
W&M - Retail Fuel Inspections Compliance	85% Compliance	69%, 86.6% passed at first reinspection.
Retail Food - Reduce Instances of Foodborne Illness Risk Factors	Less than 50% incidents identified	56%, overall critical violation rate was 15%
Bedding - Increase Number of Retail Inspections and Include Underserved Rural Counties	350	535 (90 in rural areas)

# Regulatory Services - 2023 Successes:

## FDA Inspection Improvements:

- Addressed a Critical Staffing Shortage of FDA-Trained Inspectors
  - Increased FDA-trained and certified inspectors from 4 to 13 people with 4 more coming on soon
  - In 2021 there were 2 FDA-trained inspectors

**34% in 2022**

**6% in 2023**

**0% in 2024**

**Employee turnover rate**

**50**  
**FDA**  
**contracted**  
**Inspections**



# Regulatory Services - 2023 Successes:

## New Employee Training Procedures

- Implemented cross-training for Manufacture Food, Retail Food and Dairy Inspection employees
- Required specialization for Food and Dairy Inspectors
- Enhanced Electronic Inspection System



## Results:

- Improved customer service
- Improved efficiency and response time
- Improved employee retention

# Regulatory Services - 2023 Successes:

**Utah Rapid Response Team (URRT)** - Purpose: to respond quickly to food and feed-related illness outbreaks and other food or animal feed-related incidents to protect human and animal health.

- Up until recently, Utah was among the first and only RRT's in our region.
- URRT won first place at National RRT conference for their Watermelon Traceback Training Exercise in Green River



# Regulatory Services - Concerns:

## Staffing Shortages

- Manufacture Food Program
- Retail Food Program
- Weights and Measures
- Certain areas of the state, like Vernal, more prone to shortages

Planning to cross-train inspectors between the three programs to lessen this issue.

## Raw Milk Issues

- Raw For Retail Farms: 14
  - 22 Illnesses reported from raw milk consumption
  - 4 Hospitalizations
  - Raw Milk regulations continue to be a moving target

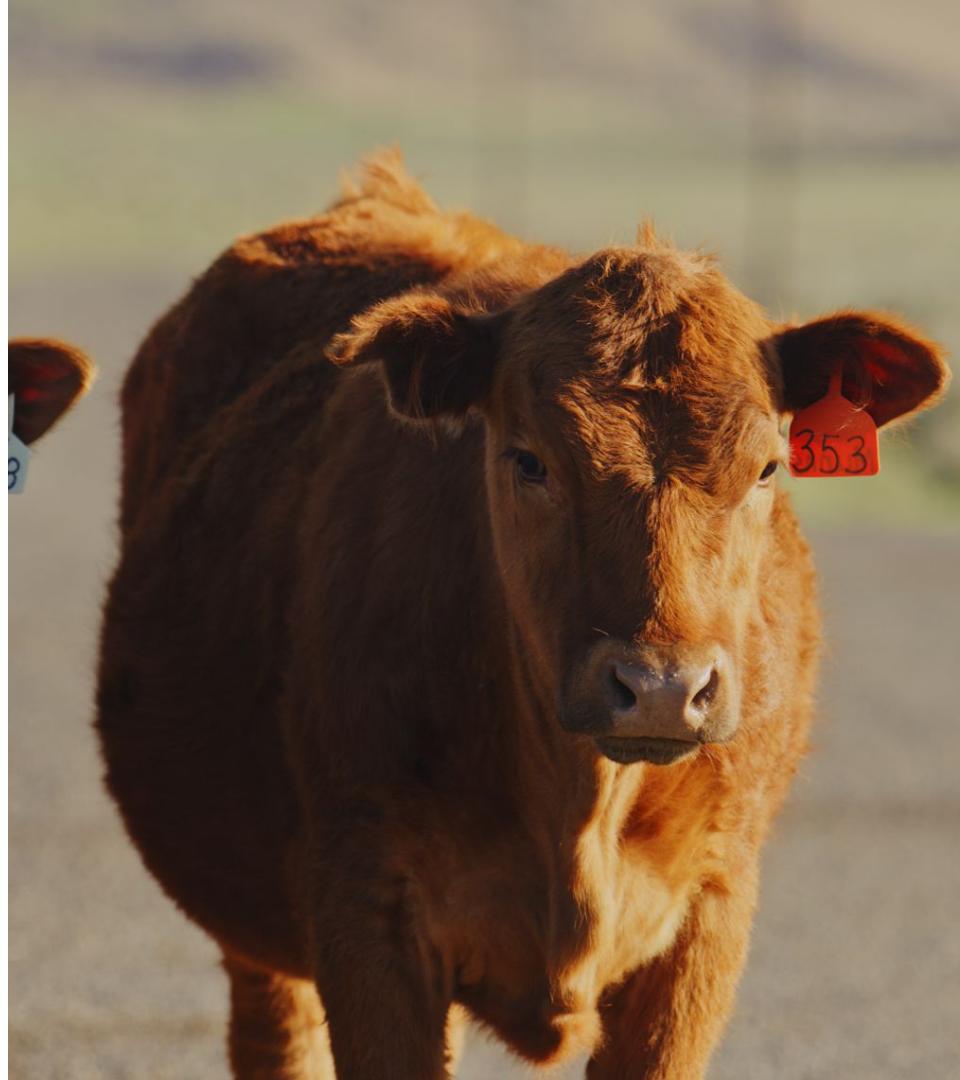
Consumer education will continue to be a key factor.

# Intent Language Request

- Request for two vehicles due to increased number of inspections and the need for towing capacity
- 1 Sedan
- 1 Pick-up truck with towing capacity, hauling specialized equipment



# Animal Industry Division



# Domesticated Elk - Sheep

- UDAF received an exemption from new USDA verification requirements for the 2023 hunt season due to HB45 changes and existing testing/inventory requirements.
  - 191 elk were imported and accounted for under this exemption.
- RFID readers, sampling supplies and trainings were provided to Utah elk farms and hunting ranches through a USDA grant the Elk and Animal health Program received.
- The Elk Program received a grant to improve data management and collection during elk brand inspections and inventories.



	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Elk- Hunt killed	539	603	514	485
Elk- Chronic Wasting Disease	2	1	0	4

# A Wish Come True

When 13 year old Griff White was asked what his one wish would be while he is fighting bone cancer, he only wanted one thing: **The opportunity to go on an elk hunt.**

UDAF was more than happy to help make this happen for Griff. They helped coordinate with one of Utah's domestic elk ranches, SD Outfitters, who along with two of their clients, were able to make this dream hunt come true.



# Predator Control: Aerial Heli Updates

- Since first Heli flights in December, 193 coyotes have been taken
  - 145 taken on key deer units
  - 48 taken using Predator Damage Control Fund in areas of historical livestock loss
- 99.2 hours flown over 19 flights
  - 14 flights in deer unites
  - 4 flights for livestock damage
  - 1 training flight
- Counties: Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Beaver, Iron, Wayne, Uintah, and Cache
- Data captured in OnX Hunt App
- Thermal tech is critical - 81% of take days



# Predator Control: Aerial Fixed Wing

- 64 Coyotes taken so far
- 7 flights
- 30.8 hours
- On 86% of days, coyotes take was the result of thermal



# Predator Control Proposed Performance Measures

**1. Percent change in reported documented kills of livestock by mountain lions and bears. (Target 5% reduction)**

**2. Percent of reported predator sightings or predations with response by trappers. (Target 80%)**

**3. Reduce and prevent cougar-caused mortality of deer. (Target 8%)**

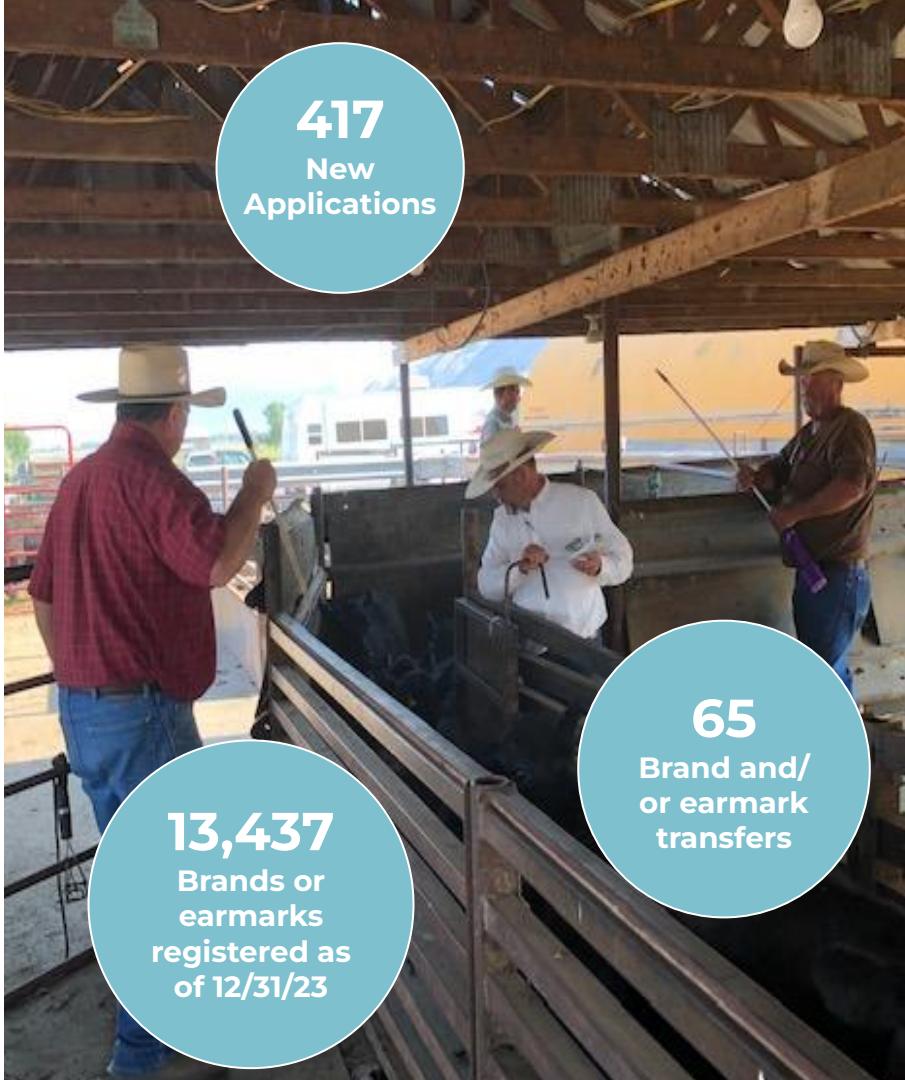
# Brand Inspection

## Estray Livestock

Livestock	Head	Approx. Value
Cattle	140	\$175,800
Horses	15	\$21,500
Goats	1	\$500
Total	156	\$197,800

Brand inspections conducted from 1/1/23-12/31/23

Brand Inspections	Travel Permits	Pre-sale Certificates
23,843	2,372	441



**417**  
New Applications

**13,437**  
Brands or  
earmarks  
registered as  
of 12/31/23

**65**  
Brand and/  
or earmark  
transfers

# Meat Inspection

- 36 official establishments.
- 63 custom exempt plants and 38 Farm Custom Slaughter permittees (Tripod mobile Harvesting rigs).
- 137 establishments throughout Utah.
- 52,296 animals passed for human consumption, along with 11,407 animals under custom exempt (not for sale).
- Performed 1,231 animal and carcass dispositions.
- Verified over 55,814 inspection tasks which ensure safe, unadulterated and properly labeled products.

Plant type	Quantity
Harvesting	4
Harvesting & processing	9
Processing only	7
T/A harvesting	2
T/A harvesting & processing	4
T/A processing only	10

# Animal Health

- Animal Health oversaw the importation of 8.2 million animals on 14,000 health certificates.
- New State Veterinarian, Dr. Daniel Christensen joined the Department in August.
- Two Millard County bulls tested positive for trichomoniasis. Another five bulls tested positive and were linked to an outbreak in southeastern Idaho that also affected 15 Utah bulls the year before.
- Two commercial turkey facilities and two backyard flocks tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza, resulting in the depopulation of almost 142,000 birds.
- Implemented a cost-share program for RFID tag readers for veterinarians through USDA funding.
  - 19 readers were purchased and training was provided to the veterinarians.
- The UDAF loan repayment program for veterinarians in underserved areas has received 10 applications.
- \$154,000 ongoing request for a lab diagnostician.

# Marketing & Economic Development



# Marketing and Economic Development Programs

## Market Development Programs:

- Utah's Own
- International Trade
- *Farm to School (UT Farm to Fork)\**

## Grant Programs:

- Ag Stress Assistance Program
- Specialty Crop Block Grant
- Utah Food Security Processing Grant
- Misc. Grant Guidance and Technical Assistance
- *Regional Food Business Centers Grant\**
- *Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant\**

## Communications and Admin:

- Websites
- Social Media
- *Podcast\**
- Newsletters
- Graphics
- Local Food Advisory Council
- Junior Livestock Treasury
- Apple and Tart Cherry Marketing Boards

\*Denotes program was new in 2023

# Marketing and Economic Development: Performance Measures

FY2023 Performance Measures	Target Value	Achieved Value
UDAF Website Bounce Rate*	70% or lower	47.40%
UDAF Social Media Follower Increase	5%	5.2%
Utah's Own Profile Page Views	145,000	329,846
Utah's Own Member Retention Rate**	60%	96%

\*A bounce rate is the % of visitors who leave a website after viewing only one page. A high bounce rate can indicate poor website design.

\*\*Utah's Own Member Retention Rate is calculated by dividing the previous year's total members by the current year's renewals. In FY22 there were 240 total members, in FY23 232 renewals were processed.

# 2023 Highlights: ASAP

**Ag Stress Assistance Program** - operated in partnership with USU Extension AgWellness.

- Launched voucher program providing up to \$2,000 in mental health care for producers.
  - Expended 92% of available voucher funding. (\$262,100)

**236**  
Farmers and Ranchers Received Treatment

**Over 1,591**  
Mental Health Care Appts. Funded

**700**  
Producers Reached at Trainings

**327**  
Producers called USU office about grant

Extension  
Utah State University.

**Ag Stress Assistance Program**

FREE Mental Healthcare

Vouchers for free mental and behavioral healthcare are now available for Utah farmers, ranchers, and their families

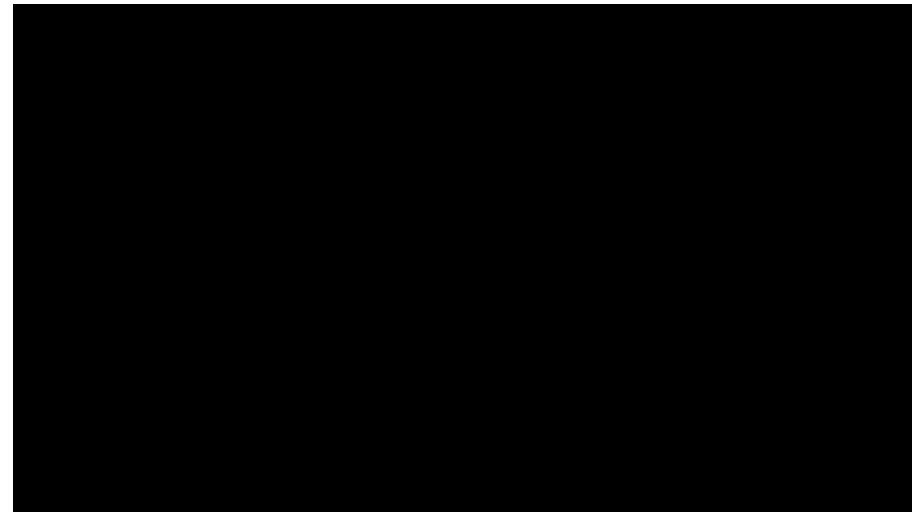
ag.utah.gov/asap

# 2023 Highlights: ASAP Testimonials

“I wanted to reach out and let you know that I had to use your suicide prevention training today. Someone was struggling and thanks to your training and resources, I knew exactly what I needed to do”

“Our family was blessed by your voucher program. Our 16 year old son tried to take his own life. Thanks to your program we were able to get the financial help we needed for the ER and for therapy. It's making a difference for him. Thank You”

“I want to thank you for the voucher program, I am 68 years old, have dairy farmed my whole life, I'm struggling. It's getting harder and harder for me mentally. I don't have much money to be able to afford the help that I need. Thanks for making it easy for me to do this”

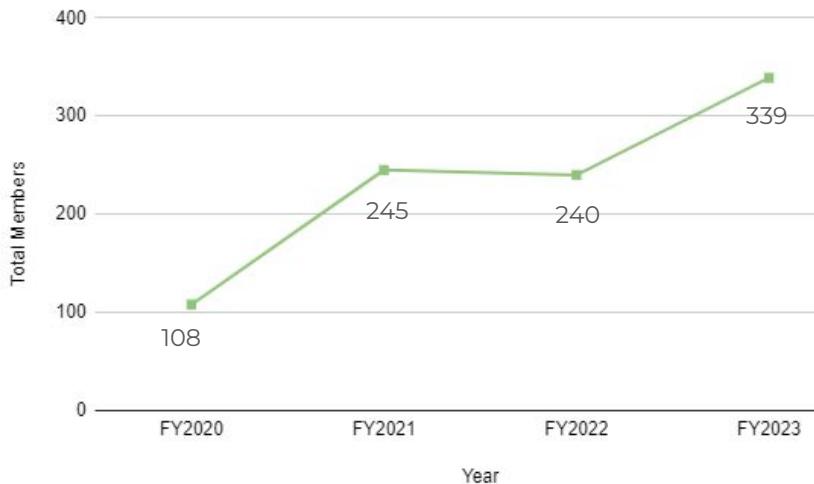


# Marketing and Economic Development

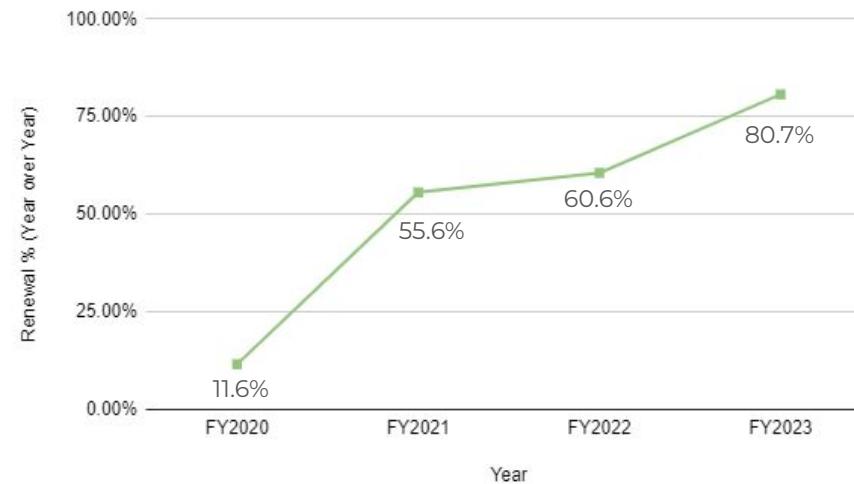
## 2023 Highlights: Utah's Own Program Growth



Utah's Own Membership Growth



Year-Over-Year Renewal %



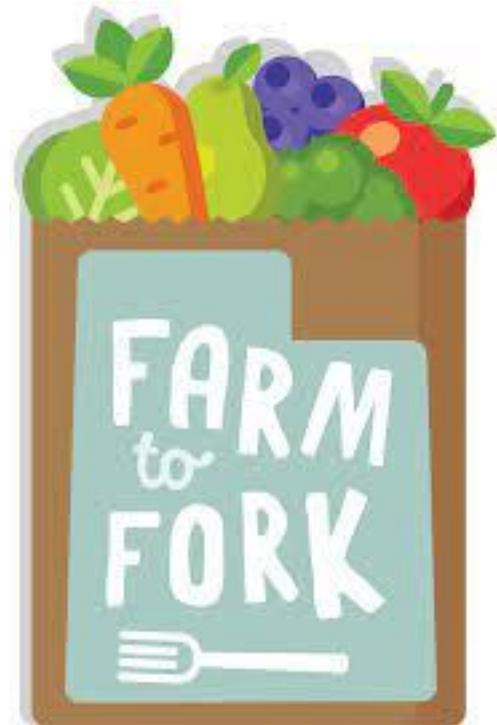
# 2023 Highlights: Farm to School

## Farm to School / UT Farm to Fork

- Hired UDAF's first Farm to School FTE
- Interagency partnership with USBE
- Funded by USDA Farm to School Formula Grant awarded to USBE

## Highlights:

- Increase in event participation:
  - **Apple Crunch Day**
    - 40 events, 73k participants, \$44k spent on local apples
  - **Harvest Gratitude Day**
    - 27 schools, 1,100 participants, 8 counties
- 23k lbs of local beef purchased for Utah schools through the USDA-funded Local Beef Project, a value of \$123k



# 2023 Highlights: New Grant Programs

## Regional Food Business Centers Grant

- Utah joins CA, NV, and AZ for the Southwest Regional Food Business Center
- **\$641,699** awarded to UDAF
- Funding a Regulatory Navigator Marketing Specialist through 2028
- Better Business Builder subaward grants of up to \$100k will be offered within the SW region
- Also includes 3 technical assistance FTE's to be hired by USU Extension

## Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant

- **\$3,040,043** awarded to UDAF
  - Approx. \$531k for Supply Chain Coordination activities including 1 FTE through May 2027
  - Approx. \$200k will cover 40% of an FTE for administering the grant
  - \$2,310,934 will be offered as subaward grants for infrastructure and equipment
- Intent is to develop the middle-of-the-supply chain
  - **Excludes meat and animal feed**

# Grazing Improvement Program



# Wells & Solar Pumps

- New wells create new opportunities for both grazing and wildlife.
  - 55 wells approved in Bears Ears
  - Solar energy can effectively be used to pump water.
  - Each new water source can provide access to up to 8,000 acres of previously unavailable land for grazing.



# Performance Measures

- Animal Unit Months Affected by GIP Projects-  
Goal 160,000 Actual 261,168
- Number of GIP Projects that Time, Timing, and Intensity Grazing Management to Improve Grazing Operations Goal 15/year Actual 17
- Number of Projects with Water Systems Installed Per Year Goal 50/year Actual 146 this year





**Thank You**