

November 20, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee

Water Optimization Programs

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Utah Division of Water Resources

water.utah.gov

Agriculture Water Optimization



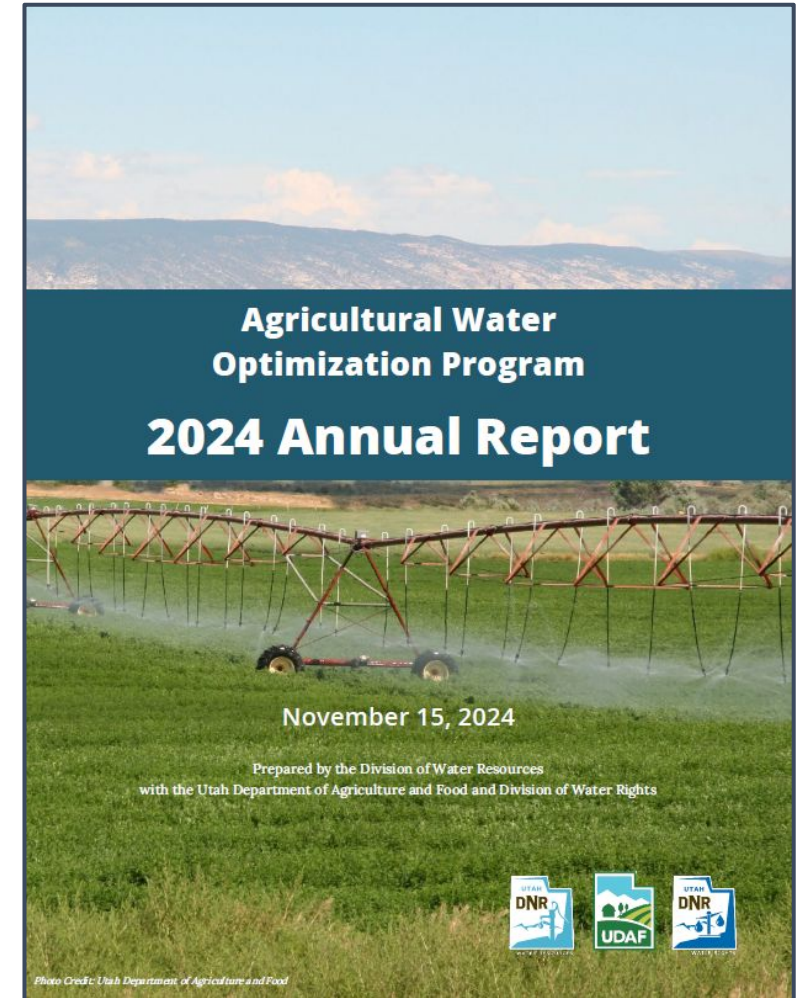
Committee activities and accomplishments

- Updated ranking criteria
- 2024 application period:
 - 389 applications & \$65M requested
 - 350 pre-consultations performed by the Division of Water Rights
 - 209 projects funded at \$48M throughout the state
- Stakeholder engagement and outreach
 - Regular committee meetings
 - Summer tour
- Strategic plan development



Annual Report Contents

- Purpose of report...
 - *“The division shall, in coordination with the department and the Division of Water Rights, annually compile and publish a report on:*
 - (a) completed projects;*
 - (b) saved water made available from agricultural water optimization projects; and*
 - (c) the effectiveness of the agricultural water optimization funding programs established by this part.” (73-10g-301)*
- Coordination with UDAF & WRi
- Approach for 2024 Annual Report



Saved Water and Water Use Impacts

- 20 projects completed
- Analysis is limited
- No “Saved water” change applications filed
- Preliminary analysis
 - Diversion – potential for notable decreases
 - Depletion – negligible change expected



Agriculture Impacts

- Maintaining viable agriculture industry
- Reduced labor and associated costs
- Increased agricultural production
- Farming flexibility



Other Program Benefits

- Expanded measurement and telemetry
- Environmental benefits:
 - Maintain open space
 - Avoidance of heat islands
 - Reduced erosion and water quality improvement
- Social influence for adoption of water optimization
- Improved safety





Three Case Studies (conducted by UDAF)



2025 Plan



- New application period:
January 1, 2025 – February 28, 2025
- Anticipating **\$30M** in funding
- Committee prioritization recommendations
 - \$25M on measurement
 - \$50M on canal improvements
 - Remaining funds toward subsurface drip and automated surge
- Committee recommends increasing cost share amount for measurement and telemetry projects to **75%**



Secondary Water Meter Program



2024 Program Highlights



98 ARPA Contracts
~\$265 million
~\$106 million reimbursed



Board Loan Funds
~\$68 Million



Exempt Systems
15 complete
+8 in progress



Meters Installed
37,607 installed
+85,000 funded



Fully Metered Systems
44



Added Reporting Systems
99



Landscape Incentives Program



2024 Program Highlights

- **Incentives** for replacing grass with waterwise landscaping
 - Apply/learn more: [UtahWaterSavers.com](https://www.UtahWaterSavers.com)
 - Up to \$3/square foot
- **Partners:** Central Utah, Jordan Valley, Washington County, Weber Basin Water Conservancy Districts
- **71 cities** have adopted qualifying landscape ordinances
 - 62% of Utahns live in a qualifying area
- **2023:** Over 3 million square feet of grass replaced
 - 1,758,000 square feet of that was replaced with waterwise landscaping using state funds
- **2024:** ~1 million square feet replaced (as of July 1st)

