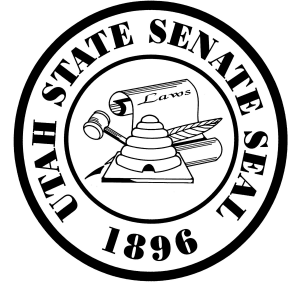




Performance Note
HB0296 - Soil Health
Amendments
Sponsor: Rep. Ferry, Joel



Performance Note Report

Author: Debbie Lyberger

Agency: Department of Agriculture and Food

Funding For:

New Services or Benefit

Public Benefit:

Purpose: The Utah Soil Health Programs purpose is a farmer-led program designed to increase the adoption of soil health principles and practices on Utah's agricultural lands by overcoming barriers to implementation through incentive-based approaches such as grants for implementation, demonstration, education, and outreach, or research. The program will demonstrate the state's commitment to protecting its soils and agricultural productivity through the development of a framework that will assist the state in acquiring outside funding sources and allocating those funds to meet program goals through collective efforts focused on farmers. The program's duty will be to increase soil health adoption in the state by increasing localized knowledge through demonstration, education, and research, and the collection of regionally applicable data through a monitoring and inventory program.

Services: Services the program will provide will include acquiring federal and other funds related to soil health, conservation, and environmental improvement that will be allocated out through statewide grants for projects including: Implementation grant directly to farmers and ranchers; Demonstration grants for organizations to do on-farm based demonstration sites with outreach components; Equipment Grants to assist in the purchase of equipment related to soil health practices; Education, Outreach and Research grant to help increase localized knowledge and answer farmer and ranchers questions on how to adopt soil health practices to Utah specific agriculture systems and better understand the positive impacts these practices have on agriculture and the environment including water, soil, and air; Soil Health Advisory Committee will provide collaboration between farmers, agencies, organizations, and the agriculture industry to prevent duplicative efforts and provide effective cross-communication.

Expected Outcome: The expected outcome of the program overall would be the increase of acres of agricultural land under a soil health system of practices, leading to decrease production cost and increase productivity. This will be through the development of a localized knowledge base through successful establishment of demonstration projects and outreach programs that help educate farmers and ranchers on how to implement soil health practices successfully adapted to Utah. An increase of 10% of cropland into a soil health system over the next decade would lead to increased profitability for the farmers and improvements in environmental factors including water and air quality.

Implementations and Resources: The program manager will oversee the development of the program with the main task of seeking out and applying for outside funding sources that could be utilized to fund various grants and activities for the program. Current funding sources could include federal programs such as the USDA - NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants for On-Farm Demonstrations, Western SARE Farmer - Professional or professional development program. The state provides matching funds will increase the chances of fundingThe successful formation of the Soil health advisory committee will be utilized to build program rule recommendations for the Utah Conservation Commission, along with setting priorities for the grants and development of ranking criteria and funding recommendations. This committee will be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Additionally, representatives from agencies, academia, and industry will assist the committee in providing technical expertise and allow for collaboration between all groups to achieve common goals without duplication of efforts. Conservation Planners with the department will help to do groundwork related to the planning of implementation grants and the providing of technical assistance to farmers and ranchers. Two additional planners will be needed to facilitate this work across the state. These planners will also assist the district in local outreach efforts involving soil health.

How:

Performance Measures

Goal

Title: Goal Title

Description:

Collection Method:

	2021	2022	2023
Target	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baseline	0.00	0.00	0.00

Goal

Title: Goal Title

Description:

Collection Method:

	2021	2022	2023
Target	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baseline	0.00	0.00	0.00

Goal

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	2021	2022	2023
Target	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baseline	0.00	0.00	0.00

By rule, performance notes are provided by the governmental entity that will supervise the new agency or administer the new program. Performance notes are not written by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.