

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

A wide-angle photograph of a agricultural field in the foreground, filled with young green plants. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a clear sky.

AgVIP & Soil Health Program Updates

Katie Ottmann
Program Manager

AgVIP Updates



- New northern UT AgVIP/soil health planner - Nick Reithel
- Submitted building block request for \$1 million ongoing funding this next legislative session
- AgVIP/Soil Health promotional video coming soon!
- Contract obligation is complete: \$1,512,680 enrolling 45,466 acres
- Finishing site visits this month, plans will be completed and signed by producers by early December
- Plan implementation will begin during 2026 crop year

Soil Health Updates

- Will be caught up on in-field assessments by end of fall
- Local soil health workshops have continuing via AgSHOP grant:
 - **Daggett CD** Soil Health Workshop on **10/8**
 - **Northern UT** Soil Health Conference on **10/29 & 10/30**
 - **Grand CD** Soil Health Workshop on **11/12**



ABOUT ▾ SOIL HEALTH ▾ **EVENTS ▾** CONTACT

Upcoming Events



Sep 30, 2024 - Sep 29, 2025



[Organic By Design: A Whole Systems Approach](#)

Sep 15, 2025 05:00 pm - 08:00 pm Other Events

Organic By Design: A Whole Systems Approach

Dinner, speakers, Discussion, and Farm Tour

When: Monday, September 15th, 2025 | 5:00-8:00PM

Where: Steep Mountain Farm | 655 East 200 South Wellsville, Utah 84339



Organic By Design:
A Whole Systems Approach
Dinner, Speakers, Discussion, and Farm Tour

Steep Mountain Farm | Wellsville, UT

September 15th, 2025 | 5:00-8:00 PM

*Registration is free, but required and limited



Utah State University

WEST/SOUTHWEST
SUSTAINABILITY CENTER



Soil Health Updates



- Tribal soil health committee coming soon!
 - Working with Covenant Pathways organization to facilitate group development
 - Will guide soil health work in tribal communities and organizations
 - Goal: host first meeting before the end of the year



BIOCOSMOLOGY

A Holistic Approach to Farming

At Spirit Farm, we view agriculture through the lens of bio-cosmology, integrating biology and spirituality. We believe that the physical and spiritual realms are interconnected, and by incorporating indigenous methods, we honor the land, people, and climate. This holistic approach aligns soil health, nutrition, and wellness, paving the way for flourishing ecosystems.



CULTIVATING CONNECTION

Our work is rooted in the wisdom of connection. Spending time with Shima Nahatsaan, Mother Earth, reveals solutions to modern challenges. By applying Indigenous wisdom and nature-inspired innovations, Spirit Farm trains and empowers individuals to grow nutrient-rich foods in the high southwestern desert, fostering a profound connection to the land.



EMBRACING REGENERATION

Regeneration is at the heart of Spirit Farm's mission. We aim to restore both the biological farming system and the spiritual well-being of our community. By uniting physical practices with spiritual renewal, we cultivate Indigenous regenerative intelligence, preserving ancestral wisdom for future generations.

Soil Health in the West Conference



- Please distribute save-the-dates to your districts!
- Registration opens Nov. 13th
- More info at:
<https://utahsoilhealth.org/events>
- Debuting a Utah Soil Health Resource Guide



Keynote Speakers



Ray Archuleta

“Ray the soil guy”

Professional soil scientist, former USDA employee, educator, public speaker, founder of “Understanding Ag” and “Soil Health Academy”



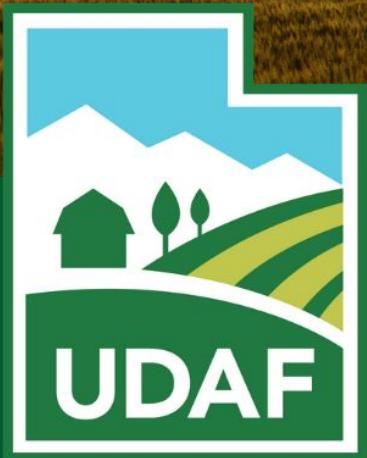
Rick Clark

5th generation farmer, educator, advocate for soil health and regenerative practices, founder of “Farming Green”, featured in “Common Ground” documentary



R64-6 AgVIP Rule Change

- Updating rule to streamline, remove unnecessary language, align with statutory authority
- Changes are for clarity and alignment, NOT to impact core mission or requirements
- Will be amended via a “repeal and reenact” process (similar to amendment process)
- Review highlighted main changes



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

THANK YOU
Katie Ottmann
katieottmann@utah.gov or (385) 224-9447