

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

# Agricultural Water Optimization Update

# Committee Changes

- Reasonable attempt to irrigate the majority of its acreage for at least one full growing season of the last 5 years
- On-site inspection required for each payment request
- Only 4 payment requests per contract
- SDI and automated surge projects funded at 50%
- Metering, telemetry, and reporting projects funded at 75%
- Grant amount cap at \$2,000/acre (on-farm)
- All projects must submit 2 bids as part of the application



**Agricultural Water Optimization Program - FY 26 Ranking - Canal/Irrigation Company**

Question #	Ranking Question	Response	Possible Points	Total Points
1	Is this an application for a Water Loss Study that meets program criteria?	Yes	40	40
		No	0	
2	What is the Status of the Saved Water Change application?	Approved	10	10
		Filed	2	
		None	0	
3	What type of project?	Mesurement/Telemetry Only	20	20
		Piping	15	
		Lining	10	
		Automation	10	
4	Do you currently have a written financial agreement of at least 10% with another party to fund this project?	Yes	5	5
		No	0	
5	Is the project located within an adopted Groundwater Management plan area, or under consideration for a Groundwater Management plan area by the State Engineer?	Yes	3	3
		No	0	
6	Is the project located in the Great Salt Lake Watershed?	Yes	3	3
		No	0	
7	Is the project located in the Colorado River Basin?	Yes	3	3
		No	0	
8	What is the cost per estimated acre foot of water saved (from water loss study)? Total project amount requested divided by the estimated acre foot of water saved = Cost Per Acre Ft saved (CAFS). Total points = 10 pts - (CAFS x 0.01). A water loss study automaticly receives 10 points.	Up to	10	10
		>= \$1000/acre foot	0	
9	Is this project an additional phase of a previously funded Water Optimization project?	Yes	1	1
		No	0	
10	Will construction start by March 31, 2027? <b>Projects that fail to meet this deadline will forfeit funding.</b>	Yes	5	5
		No	0	
			<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>



# Agricultural Water Optimization Program - FY 26 Ranking - On-Farm

Question #	Ranking Question	Response	Possible Points	Total Points
1	Is the proposed project type one of the following: Only Measurement and Reporting (Telemetry optional).	Yes	35	35
		No	0	
2	What is the status of the Saved Water change application?	Approved	15	15
		Filed	3	
		None	0	
3	Does the current irrigation system have an existing real time water measurement device or will the proposed project install a real time water measurement device to be used for one year prior to project installation?	Meter Installed Now	10	10
		1 Year before Project	5	
		None	0	
4	Is the project located within the Great Salt Lake Watershed?	Yes	3	3
		No	0	
5	Is the project located within an adopted groundwater management plan area, or under consideration for a groundwater Management plan area or under consideration for a groundwater management plan area by the state engineer?	Yes	3	3
		No	0	
6	Is the project located within the Colorado River Basin?	Yes	3	3
		No	0	
7	Do you currently have a written financial agreement of at least 10% with another party to fund this project?	Yes	2	2
		No	0	
8	Does this project include one of the following irrigation water management practices; (VFD) flood irrigation sensor, real-time soil moisture sensor, laser land leveling, or weather station that measures evapotranspiration (ET)?	Yes	2	2
		No	0	
9	Does the project have a design? Map and cost estimate must be included.	Yes	2	2
		No	0	





**Agricultural Water Optimization Program - FY 26 Ranking - On-Farm**



Question #	Ranking Question	Response	Possible Points	Total Points
10	What is the total project cost/acre? Total project request amount divided by the project acres = Cost Per Acre (CPA). Total points = 20 - (CPA x .005 = 20 pts - (CPA x 0.005)	Up to	20	20
		Over \$4000 per acre	0	
12a	Select the type of irrigation project for the application	Flood	12b	5
		Sprinkler	12c	
		Drip	12d	
		Conveyance Only (Piping)	5	
12b (Flood)	Please Select all system components / practices that will be implemented with the flood system (mark all that apply)	Laser Level / Level Basin	1	
		Flood Sensor (WET Stake etc.)	1	
		Piping / Enclosure of ditch	1	
		Automation / Remote control (headgates etc.)	1	
		Weather Station / Soil Moisture Sensors (Calculates ET or Multiple depths)	1	
12c (Sprinkler)	Please Select all system components / practices that will be implemented with the sprinkler system (mark all that apply)	LESA / LEPA Pivot or Linear	2	
		Cloud based system (fieldnet etc.)	1	
		Automation / Remote control of system (pumps / valves etc)	1	

# Agricultural Water Optimization Program - FY 26 Ranking - On-Farm

Question #	Ranking Question	Response	Possible Points	Total Points
		Weather Station or Soil Moisture (Calculates ET or Multiple depths)	1	
12d (Drip)	Please Select all system components / practices that will be implemented with the system (mark all that apply)	Remote Control of the system (pump, valves etc.)	1	
		Soil Moisture Sensors (Multiple depths)	2	
		Weather Stations (calculates ET)	2	
			<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

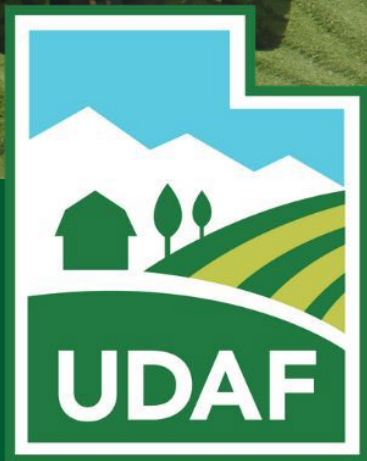


# Upcoming dates

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- Applications open January 1st - Feb 28th 2026
- Start pre-consultation
- Collect bids
- Get projects designed
- Work with planners





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# THANK YOU

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