



EXTENSION
UtahStateUniversity

AG HIGHLIGHTS

**UINTAH AND DAGGETT
COUNTIES**

JANUARY 2021

Irrigation Research at the USU Vernal Farm

by Boyd Kitchen, USU Extension

Have you seen the new piece of irrigation equipment at the USU Vernal Farm? Maybe you have wondered what’s up? This lateral, also called a lateral pivot, is unique to the Uinta Basin and is being used to conduct irrigation research right here in Vernal.

The research is part of a state-wide project to provide farmers and water managers with tools for optimizing agricultural irrigation. In partnership with Uinta Water Conservancy District and Utah water agencies, we are evaluating water conservation practices for pivot irrigation that include advanced irrigation technology such as mobile drip irrigation, low-elevation precision application, and low-elevation spray application. In addition to these irrigation strategies, we will also examine crop management practices with the potential to improve water use efficiency, including drought tolerant genetics, no-tillage, alternative crops, and cover crops.

If you want to know more, or you’re just curious, contact me or stop and visit us in the field when you see us working.



Upcoming Events

**LIVE Uintah Basin
Crop and Livestock School**
February 17
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Western Park
Vernal

Virtual Crop Schools
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Jan 12 — Alfalfa
Jan 19 — Corn
Jan 26 — Small Grains
Feb 2 — Alternative Crops
Feb 9 — Pasture/Other hay

Virtual Livestock Workshops
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
Jan 28 — Sheep & drought
Feb 4 — Insurance & drought
Feb 11 — Beef & drought
Feb 18 — Grasshoppers, etc.
Feb 25—When is the drought really over?

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Virtual Crop and Livestock Schools

The silver lining in the COVID pandemic might be that we are learning to do things differently. USU Extension, for example, is providing educational opportunities virtually. The upside is that producers don't have to travel great distances to participate in winter crop and livestock schools that are traditionally held during winter months throughout Utah.

You'll find more information about these virtual schools included in the flyers with this newsletter. Another benefit of virtual schools is that they will be recorded so you can "attend" them anytime that works for you. They're free, but may require registration to receive the link. If anyone wants to attend any of these but doesn't have the high speed internet necessary, you may be able to come to the Extension office to view them.

LIVE Uintah Basin Crop and Livestock School

Wednesday, February 17

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Western Park, Vernal

If you are getting tired of virtual meetings and hunger for the old fashion face-to-face variety, we have something for you too. We have received approval to hold the Uintah Basin Crop and Livestock School as a LIVE event on the evening of February 17 at the Western Park in Vernal. See details below.

Approval of this live meeting requires that we maintain physical distance and exercise the normal precautions. Please don't attend if you aren't feeling well. We will make this event available virtually for those who need the accommodation.

LIVE Uintah Basin Crop and Livestock School

Wednesday, February 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Western Park in Vernal

Topics

Conservation Stewardship Program
If your cows could talk ...
Irrigation Research in the Uintah Basin
Drought Outlook
Beef and Hay Markets in 2021

Presenters

Mark Ewell and Jeremy Maycock, USDA- NRCS
Eric Thacker, Range Specialist, USU
Matt Yost, Agroclimate Specialist, USU
Ana Thayer, Ag/NR Specialist, USU
Ryan Larsen, Agribusiness Specialist, USU

Web links:

extension.usu.edu/Uintah
extension.usu.edu/crops
extension.usu.edu/animalhealth/stock-and-flock

5 VIRTUAL USU CROP SCHOOLS

EACH TUESDAY NIGHT @ 6:30 - 8:30 PM STARTING JANUARY 12



January 12



January 19



January 26



February 2

Includes several panels with scientists, growers, and industry



February 9

5 Pesticide use CEU's will be offered

All @ 6:30-8:30 PM

Registration is FREE but required to access Zoom link

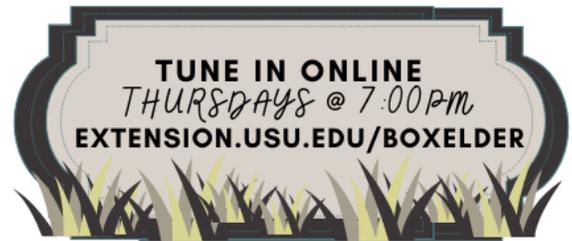
REGISTER HERE: tinyurl.com/usucropschools

*If you do not have access to high-speed internet, please contact your county Extension agent for potential accommodations.

EXTENSION 
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LIVESTOCK PRODUCER EDUCATION SERIES

OPERATION SUCCESS THROUGH DROUGHT MITIGATION



**JAN
28**

Sheep Management and Health Considerations in Drought

Dr. Chad Page, USU Extension Small Ruminant Specialist
Flock health and management concerns and solutions for drought years.



**FEB
4**

Insuring Against Drought

Dr. Ryan Larsen, USU Extension Ag Economics Specialist
Drought conditions have many economic impacts on a farm or ranch operation. This presentation will highlight some insurance and financial management tools to help mitigate these impacts.



**FEB
11**

Herd Management

Dr. Matt Garcia, USU Extension Beef Specialist
This presentation will educate on depopulation strategies to ensure productivity during drought and beyond



**FEB
18**

Insect Management

Gregory Abbott, USDA APHIS
This presentation will cover insect recognition, prevention, and cost recovery techniques that will assist you in protecting your operation.



**FEB
25**

When is the drought really over?

Dr. Eric Thacker, USU Extension Rangeland Specialist
Managing grazing through and during drought recovery.



Keep Up to Date

If you received a paper copy of this newsletter it means I don't have an email address for you. If you want to receive updates of educational programs throughout the year by email, please text your email address to 435-828-5454 or send me an email at boyd.kitchen@usu.edu.