



State of Utah

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Environmental Quality

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Division of Air Quality

EPA Grant reduces diesel emissions

DEQ and Agriculture Team Up to Clean Air

Salt Lake City, Utah – Over a dozen agriculture operators along the Wasatch Front have upgraded farming equipment with cleaner technology thanks to a \$750,000 grant awarded to the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) last year.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Diesel Agriculture Project so far has helped 18 Utah agriculture growers replace nearly 11 tractors, 16 engines and install 23 energy-efficient auxiliary power units on agriculture vehicles.

“This grant has provided a great opportunity to partner with our agriculture community to help reduce diesel emissions and improve air quality,” said Amanda Smith, executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality.

Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food Leonard Blackham couldn't agree more. “This program benefits Utahns in two ways: It helps clean the air, and it provides our farmers and ranchers with reliable and environmental-friendly equipment as they harvest our food supply.”

DAQ received the funding last year through a competitive grant process. The money will fund a total of 22 engine replacements and 30 auxiliary power units that will insure that stricter emission standard requirements are met and yield more diesel fuel conservation that ultimately benefits air quality.

Agriculture producers are pleased with the success.

“This project helped me out a lot,” said Zane Dansie of ZD Cattle Co. “I had a worn-out tractor that now runs stronger and cleaner than before. I've been able to increase the number of cattle on feed because of it.”

The installation of the auxiliary power units on long haul tractors has been beneficial to LW Miller Transportation, Inc. of Logan.

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“These units help reduce unnecessary idling, save money for our company, and contribute to the comfort of our drivers while they perform their work assignments,” said Craig Patterson of LW Miller Transportation, Inc.

Others have been able to replace aging tractors with cleaner, more fuel-efficient ones.

“In 2009 our company, McMullin Orchard’s in Central Utah, applied for a grant that let us replace one of our older and less fuel-efficient diesel tractors. We have found we do not use as much diesel with this new tractor so exhaust is less of a problem since it is much cleaner burning,” said Owner William McMullin.

The grant also helped Cherry Hill Farms Inc. replace older tractors and repower four engines on its harvesting equipment. “These engines and tractors will benefit our company with better fuel economy and cleaner emissions,” said Manger Dale Rowley. “We appreciate the state of Utah giving us this opportunity.”

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