

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

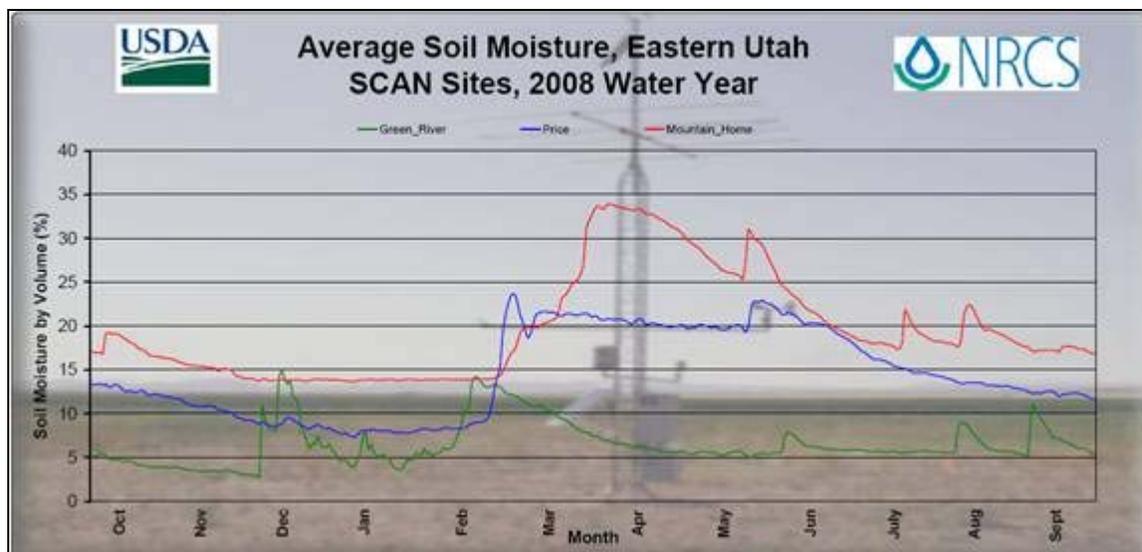
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SOIL CLIMATE ANALYSIS NETWORK DATA AVAILABLE

Utah NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) sites have been operating for more than a year. Graph data summaries of soil temperature and moisture are now available, reports Kent Sutcliffe, assistant state soil scientist. Soil moisture and temperature graphs for each of Utah's 16 sites are available at http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/scan_graphs.html. State summaries of soil moisture and temperature, like the accompanying graph, are available directly from the FTP site at: <ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/UT/SCAN/State/>. So far, Utah's SCAN sites have collected over 7.5 million soil climate measurements.



SCAN focuses on the collection of soil moisture and temperature data of the agricultural areas of the United States and Puerto Rico. Soil moisture

and temperature data are collected at 2, 8, 20 and 40 inches as well as air temperature, solar radiation, relative humidity, wind speed and precipitation. This allows users to study the impact of weather on the soil moisture and temperature for an area. This information can be used to monitor drought development, monitor crop productivity relative to soil moisture, predict regional shifts in irrigation water requirements and assist ranchers and farmers in crop management decisions.

Future plans include the installation of 17 new sites in 2009 and continued coordination with the Utah Climate Center at Utah State University and the NRCS National Water and Climate Center to develop data and map products of special interest to Utah's agriculture industry.



Recently **Karen Vaughan**, shown in accompanying photo, has been hired to handle all aspects of the Utah SCAN sites. She is located at the Snow

Survey office in Salt Lake City and will be responsible for maintenance, new installation, data quality, and product development for all Utah Scan sites. She recently completed a Phd program at Idaho State University in Moscow, Idaho.

 Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah

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Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

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