

Subject: 12-5-12 eBlast from Utah NRCS



December 5, 2012

TSP WORK A MAJOR FOCUS FOR NRCS UTAH

The 2008 Farm Bill established the Technical Service Provider (TSP) program as a way to help NRCS lighten employee work load get more conservation on the ground. Certified professionals enrolled in the program can work directly with customers to provide conservation planning services. Participation in the TSP program has grown slowly in Utah and over the past year has taken hold,

according the NRCS TSP State Coordinator Dave Varner. With interest in Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) the TSP program offers great opportunities to expand farmer participation.



Varner has held training sessions, tech talks and workshops in the last several months. A TSP training session in Ogden focused on forestry specialists. Another training held jointly with Colorado and Utah in Grand Junction hosted 13 attendees who learned more about irrigation water management services---this session was taught by Varner and Dana Larson, national TSP coordinator (and former UT NRCS employee).

Two open houses for TSPs were held in the Uintah Basin area, which provided opportunity for the TSPs to network, share ideas and discuss CAP opportunities. And, two Tech Talks were provided for NRCS employees to become more familiar with the TSP program.

An "Orientation and Conservation Planning for TSP" handbook is being developed and the cover photo (see accompanying photo) features Utah participants (left to right) TSP Jim Kline with client Jesse Nielsen and NRCS Engineer Rachael Mussil.

To learn more about the TSP program, contact [Dave Varner](#) in the Price NRCS office or visit the [Utah TSP Web site](#).

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