

From Field to Future: Making Agricultural Work Safer for Young People

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Professor Michael Pate is making a real difference in the world of agricultural safety, especially for young people. His research has been instrumental in creating safety protocols that help protect youth from the unique hazards found in agricultural work. Thanks to his efforts, over 12,000 FFA members nationwide are now better equipped to stay safe while gaining valuable hands-on experience. Through his partnerships with various organizations, Professor Pate has helped make safety a top priority in work-based learning for the next generation of agricultural professionals.

Planting Knowledge: Bringing Agriculture to K-12 Classrooms

Assistant Professor Michelle Burrows leads the charge in agricultural education as the head of the [National Center for Agricultural Literacy](#) based at Utah State University. With support from the center, Agriculture in the Classroom

programs are thriving in kindergarten through high school classes across all 50 states and U.S. territories. Burrows ensures that agriculture is woven into essential subjects like science, math, economics, biology, and social studies, making learning more relevant and engaging for students. Additionally, the center is dedicated to empowering teachers with the resources and training they need to bring the world of agriculture into their classrooms.

From Molecules to Markets: Advancing a More Sustainable Beef Industry

Beef cattle nutrition researcher Associate Professor Kara Thornton-Kurth is driving innovation in Utah's beef cattle industry. With over \$1.4 million in funding from federal agencies and industry partners, her research is about efficiently raising healthy animals and making beef products even better. By delving into the sciences of animal nutrition and physiology, her work is uncovering the molecular secrets that influence how cattle grow. Her insights are helping producers fine-tune their practices, ensuring that Utah's beef production stays ahead of the curve—competitive, sustainable, and ready for the future.

Healing on Horseback: How 'Ride Utah!' Supports Veterans and Military Families

Utah State University's Extension Equine Specialist Dr. Karl Hoopes is changing lives through the "Ride Utah!" program, which introduces military personnel, veterans, and their families to the healing power of horses. Over the past nine years, more than 1,200 veterans have had the chance to explore Utah's stunning landscapes on guided trail rides. But these outings offer more than just beautiful views—they also provide a space for group discussions on the unique challenges faced by military families. The result? Stronger mental health, increased resilience, and improved personal relationships. By teaming up with county Extension faculty, community members, and military support groups, Dr. Hoopes has created a program that not only celebrates Utah's natural beauty but also builds stronger, more supportive communities for those who have served our country.



Saving Water, Growing Strong: The Future of Farming is Smart Irrigation

Associate Professor Matt Yost is transforming the way Utah farmers manage water and grow their crops. By introducing advanced technologies like large-scale drip irrigation and soil moisture sensors, he's helping farmers use less water while still achieving strong yields—even during drought years. His work is not just about coping with today's challenges; it's about preparing agriculture for the future in a changing climate. In just a few years at USU, Yost has made a significant impact on farming and crop production across the state. His ability to connect with a diverse group of people—from farmers to scientists to government officials—sets him apart and drives meaningful progress in Utah agriculture.

Nurturing Growth: How Dr. Stock is Transforming Urban and Small-Scale Farming

Associate Professor Melanie Stock is making waves in the world of soil science, focusing on high-value crops and the environmental sustainability of small farms. Her work is not only helping these farms thrive economically but also ensuring they operate sustainably. Stock's dedication to supporting emerging areas of agriculture is truly remarkable. She has brought valuable knowledge and resources to underserved communities and has made a significant impact on urban agriculture. From helping small-acreage farmers and the growing number of flower growers in Utah use water more efficiently to improving soil health and extending the growing season with innovative techniques like high tunnels, Stock

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