

Utah County Employee of the Month, September 2014

Aaron Eagar - Weed Control Supervisor

Public Works - Roads

We would like to nominate Aaron Eagar for Utah County Employee of the Month.

Aaron is the County's Weed Control Supervisor, and is responsible for County-wide efforts to control noxious weeds and to eradicate invasive weed species throughout the County, and to control roadside vegetation along hundreds of miles of County roads.

Aaron works with various federal and state agencies, cities, private land owners, the Utah Lake Commission, and several Cooperative Weed Management Area groups, and has been instrumental in organizing the efforts and resources of such a diverse set of interested parties to cooperatively, and very successfully, work together in controlling an opponent that is always, quite literally, "growing like a weed."

Aaron has taken the initiative to develop the Invasive Species Research Park and Training Facility near Willow Park. At this unique "weed garden", weed control supervisors from across the state get hands-on training in weed identification, mapping, and bio (insect) control methods. Aaron also maintains several insectaries at various locations in the County that serve as central collection sites for agencies throughout the state to gather specialized insects that are used to control several species of noxious weeds.

Aaron has organized an effective public training and outreach program to increase the weed-awareness of private land owners and government agencies. He has also assisted the Utah Lake Commission in developing a curriculum that is presented to 4th grade students throughout the county. At the annual Utah Lake Field Day Aaron personally teaches hundreds of those students about invasive weeds, and he has received many thank you notes from teachers and students appreciative of his efforts and for the hands-on training he provides about invasive plants and how they impact Utah Lake.

One of Aaron's most visible projects has been the eradication of Phragmites around Utah Lake. Under Aaron's direction, thousands of acres along the shoreline of the lake are being systematically cleared of these environmentally damaging reed stands. The efforts that Aaron is overseeing are literally rescuing the lake and its shoreline from disaster so that it will be available for current and future residents to enjoy.

Aaron's talents don't stop at controlling weeds. In recent months he completed the assignment to construct six miles of fence along Highway 68 west of the lake. He also supervised an extensive cleanup effort in the same area to remove several tons of trash and debris from some public lands. And he is now working on a project to clear and reseed several hundred acres in that area that were destroyed by wildfire.

Whatever Aaron undertakes he always does it with a smile, a positive sense of humor, and a tenacious work ethic. For all of these reasons and more, Aaron deserves this recognition and the appreciation of the residents of the County.

Nominated by Ken Bringhurst, Roads Division Manager