

Subject: 11-14-12 eBlast from Utah NRCS
Attachments: UT Dust Bowl film flyer.pdf



November 14, 2012

EARLY SCS CONSERVATION WORK FEATURED IN KEN BURNS PBS DOCUMENTARY

[The Dust Bowl](#), a film by noted filmmaker Ken Burns, will premier this Sunday and Monday, November 18 and 19 on KUED Channel 7 and PBS stations nationwide. On Sunday, the first 2-hour film, "The Great Plow-Up" will air from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and then repeat from 9:00 to 11:00 pm. On Monday evening, the second 2-hour film, "Reaping the Wirlwind" will air during the same times—7 to 9 and 9 to 11 pm. An attached flyer can be printed and shared with others to help spread the word about this viewing opportunity.

This is a film NRCS employees and conservation partners may want to view. An approximate half-hour portion of the documentary describes what the New Deal Administration did to help overcome the devastating effects of the Dust Bowl. In an interview in [Natural History Magazine](#), Burns said "Nothing was more important than the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), headed by Hugh Hammond Bennett, who came in at the local level to reeducate farmers. In the midst of the worst economic cataclysm and the worst man-made ecological cataclysm in American history, the federal government improved the lives of people known for not being interested in intervention. Suddenly people realized they needed the government." To learn more visit NRCS's new Web site at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=STELPRDB1049437>.

Utah's own brush with the Dust Bowl

Utah's conservation partnership grew out of this same Dust Bowl era. In late 1934 Tooele County citizens wrote their congressmen asking for assistance with a serious dust problem in the areas east and south of Grantsville—a problem largely caused by failed dry farming attempts and over grazing by sheep that were trailed through the area. (See accompanying 1935 photo from Grantsville.)

In 1935 the SCS office in Albuquerque sent Engineer Graham Quate (the first state conservationist in Utah) and Range Conservationist Harley Helm to inquire into the matter. By 1937 SCS demonstration projects were underway, the State Soil Conservation Commission was established and the Minersville Conservation District (later Twin M) was the first district to be organized in the state. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers were well underway in their efforts to help heal Utah land.



Today, the tradition of the strong conservation partnership continues as we work together to conserve and protect our state's soil, water, animal, plant and air resources.

Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah



To see blasts from the past go to [e-Blast archives](#)

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