

Carbon County Agriculture Profile

Carbon County

AG/Econ/county-2005-07

E. Bruce Godfrey, Extension Specialist
 Marlon Winger, Carbon County Agent
 Dale Baker and Spencer Parkinson,
 Research Assistants

Area: 1,478 square miles
 (945,920 acres)

Population: 19,764
 (US Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Price

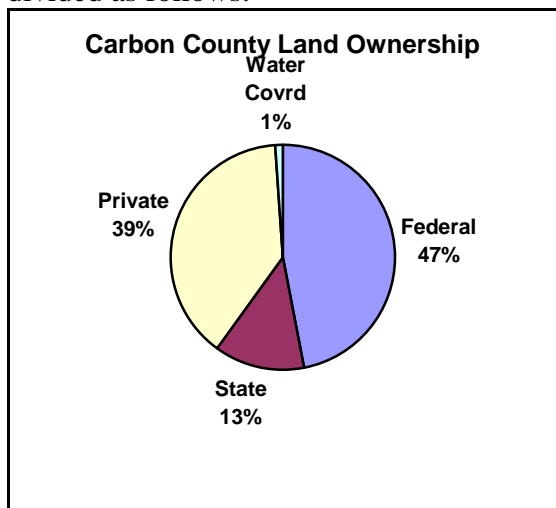


Location

Carbon County is located south of Duchesne and Wasatch counties in east-central Utah. Long ago the county relied heavily on mining of silver, gold, lead and zinc. Its primary economic base today comes from tourism, recreation and skiing.

Land Ownership

The land ownership within the county is divided as follows:



Source: (Utah County Fact Book, 2002)

All of the federally-owned ground is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS). The state owned ground is primarily part of wildlife preserves with a sizeable portion under the jurisdiction of the Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA). The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 199,384 acres in farms and ranches in the county with an average size of 821 acres and an average value of \$439 per acre. The county had 18,247 acres in cropland of which 5,997 acres were harvested and 10,684 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$3,300,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), Carbon County was ranked third in the state in apricot production.

The major crops grown in Carbon County with 2004 yields and total acres harvested were (see following page):

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	17,000 tons	5,000	3.4 tons
Other hay	1,500 tons	1,000	1.5 tons
Oats	7,000 bu	100	70 bu

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa is begun by spraying Roundup in the fall or early spring to kill the quack grass prior to disking. The ground is then harrowed and planted. The procedure is the same for planting small grains except Roundup is not typically used prior to planting grains. About 98% of all grain is planted in the spring of the year.

The most prevalent crop rotation that producers practice is to leave alfalfa in for seven years, plant oats for two years, then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get two to three cuttings of alfalfa each year. About 25% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally while the remaining 75% is bought in a neighboring county.

Irrigation water sources include the Price River and its tributaries.

Growing Season

The growing season in Carbon County averages three months in length. The three locations are examples of variations in growing season: Price Game Farm is located in the south east portion of the county, Clear Creek is in the southern part of the county at an elevation of 8307 feet above sea level, and Scofield Dam is located in the north.

Following are some of the details on climatology in the three areas:

Carbon	Climate Characteristics			
County location	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Clear Creek	23.05 in.	July 4	Aug. 25	51 days
Price Game Farm	9.75 in.	May 11	Oct. 1	144 days
Scofield Dam	14.56 in.	June 22	Sept. 4	75 days

The major classes of livestock produced in the county along with their associated inventories as of January 2004 were:

Livestock Type	Number of Head
All Cattle & Calves	11,000
Beef Cows	6,500
Sheep	6,000

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/htmlfiles/ut/ut.ppt.html>

<http://climate.usu.edu/utahclim/freeze/default.htm>

<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/summary/listut.html>

http://www.utahweather.org/UWC/utahs_climate/climate_of_utah.html

<http://biology.usgs.gov/s+t/SNT/noframe/gb150.htm>

<http://utahreach.org/carbon/visitor/about.htm>

Utah State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of illegal discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and older), disability, and veteran's status. USU's policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and academic related practices and decisions.

Utah State University employees and students cannot, because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status, refuse to hire; discharge; promote; demote; terminate; discriminate in compensation; or discriminate regarding terms, privileges, or conditions of employment, against any person otherwise qualified. Employees and students also cannot discriminate in the classroom, residence halls, or in on/off campus, USU-sponsored events and activities.

This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work. Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jack M. Payne, Vice President and Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Utah State University.