

Kane County Agriculture Profile

Kane County

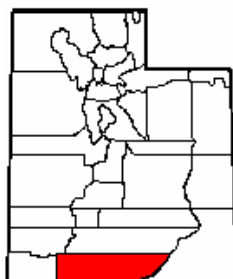
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Area: 3,992 square miles
 (2,554,880 acres)

Population: 6,039
 (U.S. Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Kanab

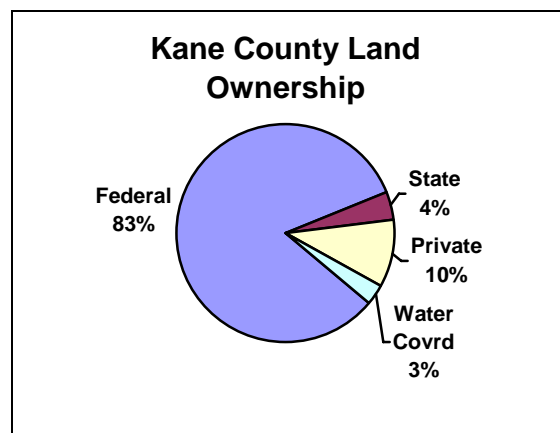


Location

Kane County is located on the southern border of Utah. It borders Arizona on the south. The economy consists of tourism, services and agriculture. Some points of interest in Kane County are Lake Powell and Hole-in-the-Rock.

Land Ownership

The land ownership within the county is divided as follows:



Source: (Utah County Fact Book, 2002)

The majority of the federally-owned ground is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The state owned ground is primarily under the jurisdiction of the Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA). The private ground is primarily farm ground, grazing and residential.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 155,825 acres in farms or ranches with an average size of 1,190 acres and an average value of \$581 per acre. The county had 8,545 acres in cropland of which 2,144 acres were harvested and 3,433 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$3,300,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

The major crops grown in Kane County with 2004 yields and total acres harvested were:

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	4,000 tons	1,800	2.2 tons
Other hay	1,000 tons	500	2.0 tons

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa is begun by plowing or disking to a depth of 10 to 12 inches. The ground is then finish disced and land planed. Alfalfa is planted with no cover crop using a surface drill. The ground preparation for the oat hay is the same with producers planting in the spring. The crops are irrigated with sprinkler systems with the most prevalent being wheel

lines. Pivot irrigation systems are also becoming popular in Kane County.

The most prevalent crop rotation practice is to leave alfalfa in for seven to eight years and then reestablish. Producers typically get three cuttings of alfalfa each year, but only two at higher elevations. About 30% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally, 50% are bought in neighboring counties (Washington and Iron), and the remaining 20% is bought statewide. Farmlands are located surrounding towns and cities including the county seat Kanab, Orderville and Alton. Kanab is located on the Utah-Arizona border.

The majority, about 95% of the irrigation water available in Kane County, is from the Virgin River and the Kanab Creek. The other 5% is drawn from deep wells in the area.

Growing Season

The growing season in Kane County averages about four and a half months. Following are some of the details on climatology in three areas of Kane County.

Kane County locations	Climate Characteristics			
	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze -free period
Alton	16.2 in	June 8	Sept. 23	107 days
Kanab	13.49 in	May 7	Oct. 18	165 days
Orderville	14.91 in	May 19	Oct. 2	138 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	9,000
Beef Cows	5,000

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>

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