

# Morgan County Agriculture Profile

## Morgan County

AG/Econ/county-2005-18

E. Bruce Godfrey, Extension Specialist  
Darrell Eddington, Morgan County Agent  
Dale Baker and Spencer Parkinson,  
Research Assistants

Area: 609 square miles  
(389,760 acres)

Population: 7,518  
(U.S. Census  
Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Morgan

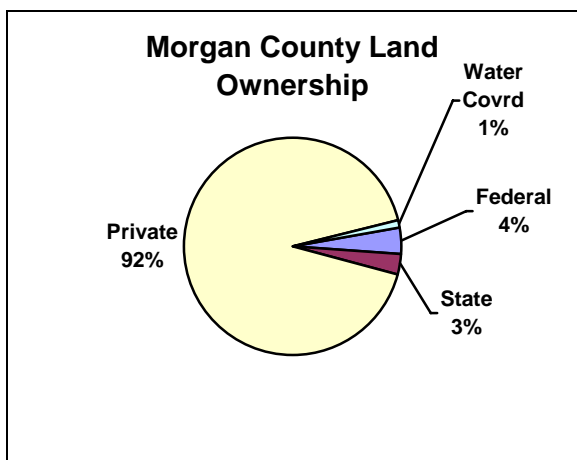


### Location

Morgan County is located in the north central part of the state.

### Land Ownership

The land ownership within the county is divided as follows:



Source: (Utah County Fact Book, 2002)

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). Portions of the state owned land are wildlife preserves and Utah state parks and recreational areas. The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

The 1997 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 179,246 acres in farms or ranches with an average size of 738 acres. The 2002 Census reported the average value at \$1060 per acre. The county had 18,872 acres in cropland of which 11,106 acres were harvested and 10,577 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$7,400,000.

### Agricultural Snapshot

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

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	24,000 tons	8,500	2.8 tons
Other hay	5,000 tons	2,500	2.0 tons
Barley	136,500 bu	1,500	91 bu
Oats	17,600 bu	200	88 bu

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa ground 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.

The majority, about 65% of the irrigation water available in Morgan County, is from the Weber River and the Echo and Rockport reservoirs. The other 35% is drawn from East Canyon Creek.

### Growing Season

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

<b>Morgan</b>	<b>Climate Characteristics</b>			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze -free period
Morgan	17.95 in.	June 5	Sept. 14	102 days

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

<b>Livestock Type</b>	<b>Number of Head</b>
All Cattle & Calves	8,000
Beef Cows	3,000
Dairy Cows	900
Sheep & Lambs	9,000

There is also a substantial mink-raising industry in Morgan County. Some 99,000 pelts were harvested in 2003.

For more information visit these Web sites:

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

<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://www.utahweather.org/UWC/utahs_climate/climate_of_utah.html)

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