

Piute County Agriculture Profile

Piute County

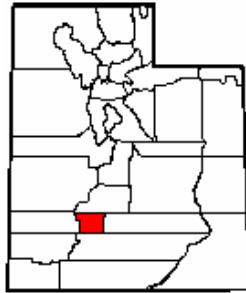
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Area: 758 square miles
(485,120 acres)

Population: 1,380
(U.S. Census Bureau
Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Junction

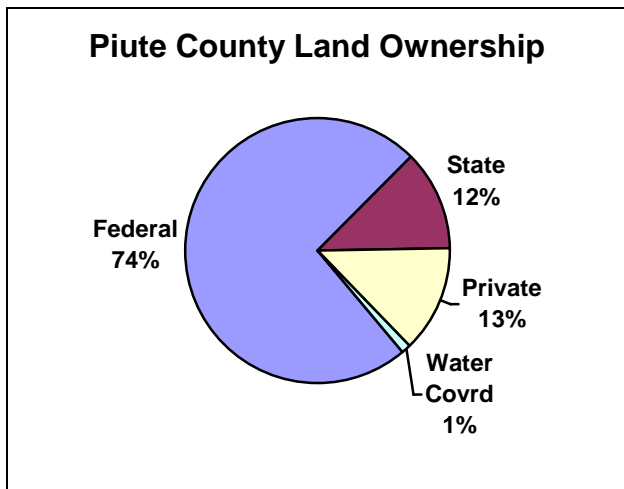


Location

Piute County is located in the south 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. The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

The 1997 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 41,991 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 389 acres. The 2002 Census reported the average value at \$1331 per acre.

The county had 17,813 acres in cropland of which 10,311 acres were harvested and 13,174 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$9,000,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

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

| 2004 Primary Crops | Yields | Total harvested acres | Average yield/acre |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| All alfalfa hay | 16,000 tons | 7,000 | 2.3 tons |
| Other hay | 5,800 tons | 3,000 | 1.9 tons |

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 without a nurse crop. Producers typically get two to three cuttings of alfalfa each year. About 15% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally while the remaining 85% is bought in a neighboring county.

Irrigation water sources include the Sevier River.

Growing Season

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

| Piute | Climate Characteristics | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | County locations | Annual Precip. | Last spring freeze | First fall freeze |
| Angle | 8.83 in | June 15 | Sept. 13 | 90 days |
| Circleville | 8.62 in | June 9 | Sept. 15 | 98 days |
| Piute Dam | 8.25 in | May 24 | Sept. 25 | 125 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 | 13,000 |
| Beef Cows | 5,000 |
| Milk Cows | 2,500 |
| Sheep & Lambs | 4,300 |

For more information visit these Web sites:

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

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