

Uintah County Agriculture Profile

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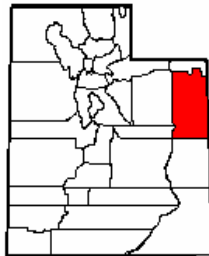
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Area: 4,477 square miles
(2,865,280 acres)

Population: 26,296
(U.S. Census Bureau
Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Vernal



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). Portions of the federal ground are maintained as national parks and recreation areas. 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, Utah state parks, and recreational areas. The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

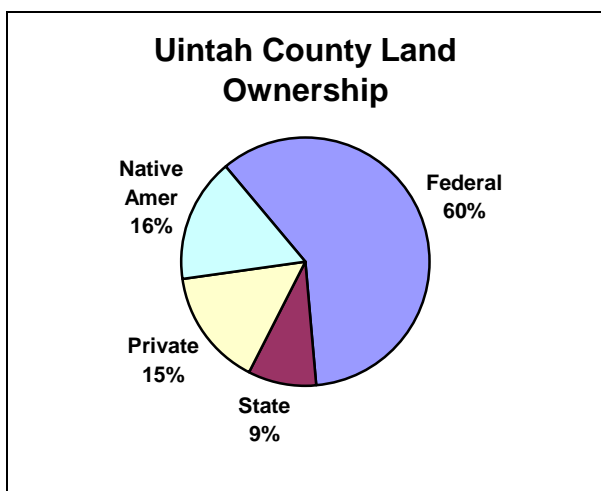
Location

Uintah County is on the eastern border of Utah. It is in the northern part of Utah and borders Colorado on the east.

Land Ownership

The land ownership within the county is divided as follows:

The 1997 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 2,268,090 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 2,853 acres. The 2002 Census reported that the average value was \$232 per acre. The county had 79,649 acres in cropland of which 33,160 acres were harvested and 60,838 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$29,500,000.



Source: (Utah County Fact Book, 2002)

Agricultural Snapshot

In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), Uintah County ranked fifth in beef cow inventory.

The major crops grown in Uintah 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	94,000 tons	29,000	3.2 tons
Other hay	15,000 tons	6,700	2.2 tons
Corn silage	56,000 tons	2,800	20 tons
Corn grain	135,000 bu	1,000	135 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 80% 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 to ten years, plant oats for one to two years, then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get three to four cuttings of alfalfa each year. About 50% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally while the remaining 50% is bought in a neighboring county.

Sources of irrigation water include the Green River and its tributaries

Growing Season

The growing season in Uintah County averages four months. Following are some of the details on climatology in four areas of Uintah County.

Uintah	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze -free period
Ouray	6.99 in	May 11	Sept 23	134 days
Ft. Duchesne	6.79 in	May 24	Sept 20	119 days
Vernal Airport	8.21 in	May 26	Sept 21	118 days
Jenson	8.13 in	May 22	Sept 17	118 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	45,000
Beef Cows	20,500
Milk Cows	1,400
Sheep & Lambs	8,900

For more information visit these Web sites

<http://utahreach.org/uintah/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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