

Utah County Agriculture Profile

Utah County

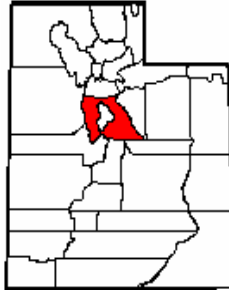
AG/Econ/county-2005-28

E. Bruce Godfrey, Extension Specialist
Dean Miner, Utah County Agent
Dale Baker and Spencer Parkinson,
Research Assistants

Area: 1,998 square miles
(1,278,720 acres)

Population: 398,059
(U.S. Census Bureau
Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Provo

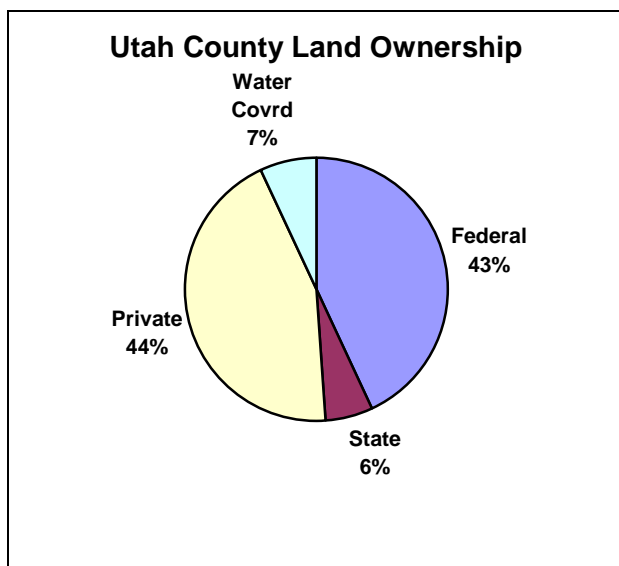


Location

Utah County is located in the middle of the state. Utah County contains Utah Lake.

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), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the military. The state owned ground is primarily wildlife preserves or 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 343,072 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 168 acres and an average value of \$2,785 per acre. The county had 142,808 acres in cropland of which 81,114 were harvested and 84,919 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$117,000,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

Utah County is one of the primary agricultural production regions in the state. In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), the county ranked first in production of pears, tart and sweet cherries and apples. It was second in production of peaches, apricots, and corn for grain. The county was third in production of honey, oats, barley, winter wheat and potatoes and ranked fourth in silage corn production. It was fifth in production of alfalfa hay, other hay and spring wheat.

The county had the fourth largest inventory of milk cows and was fourth in "All cattle and calves."

Utah County was ranked first in the state in Total Cash Receipts from crop production and ranked third in Cash Revenue from livestock production.

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

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/Acre
All alfalfa hay	151,000 tons	35,000	4.3 tons
Other hay	25,000 tons	8,000	3.1 tons
Corn silage	140,000 tons	5,900	24 tons
Corn grain	152,000 bu	1,100	138 bu
Oats	78,700 bu	800	98 bu
Wheat (irrig)	362,000 bu	3,800	95 bu
Barley	417,500 bu	5,000	93 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 70% of small grain is planted in the fall of the year.

The most prevalent crop rotation that producers practice is to leave alfalfa in for five years, corn for two years, one year of small grains and then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get two to three cuttings of alfalfa each year. About 85% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally while the remaining 15% is bought in a neighboring county.

Irrigation water comes from various sources including Strawberry Reservoir – 50%, Deer Creek Reservoir – 20%, and wells – 30%.

Growing Season

The growing season in Utah County averages about five months. Following are some of the details on climatology in three areas of Utah County.

Utah	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze -free period
Fairfield	11.93 in	June 6	Sept. 11	97 days
Pleasant Grove	16.52 in	May 9	Oct. 10	156 days
Provo BYU	22.05 in	April 23	Oct. 16	178 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	59,000
Beef Cows	18,500
Milk Cows	8,600
Sheep & Lambs	15,000

There is also a substantial mink-raising industry in Utah County. Some 326,000 pelts were harvested in 2003, which is first in the state.

For more information visit these Web sites:
<http://utahreach.org/utah/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>

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.