

Weber County Agriculture Profile

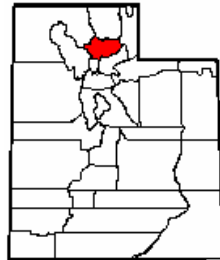
Weber County

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Area: 576 square miles
(368,640 acres)

Population: 205,827
(U.S. Census Bureau
Estimate, 2003)



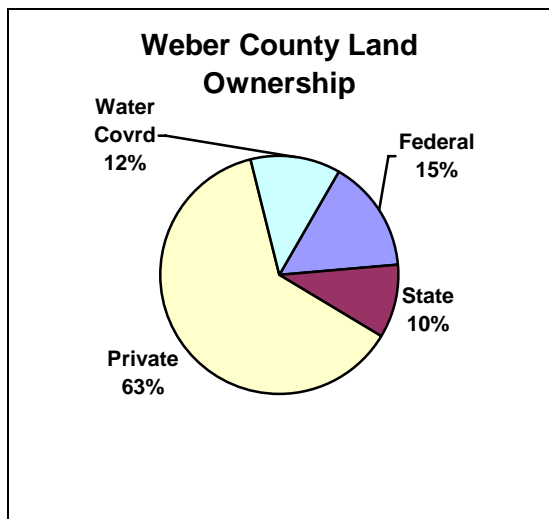
County seat: Ogden

Location

Weber County is located in the northern part of the state and borders the Great Salt 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 remaining federal ground is controlled by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the military.

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 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 86,913 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 86 acres and an average value of \$5,772 per acre. The county had 39,336 acres in cropland of which 25,913 acres were harvested and 31,425 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$26,600,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

The major crops grown in Weber 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	75,000 tons	18,000	4.2 tons
Other hay	8,000 tons	3,000	2.7 tons
Corn silage	90,000 tons	3,600	25 tons
Corn grain	191,500 bu	1,100	174 bu
Oats	17,900 bu	200	90 bu
Wheat (irrigated)	147,000 bu	1,600	92 bu
Barley	110,500 bu	1,200	92 bu

In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), Weber County was ranked fourth in peach production and fifth in corn for silage.

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 grains are planted in the spring.

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.

Sources of irrigation water include the Ogden River, Weber River and their tributaries.

Growing Season

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

Weber	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Huntsville Monastery	22.11 in	June 13	Sept. 8	87 days
Ogden Sugar Factory	17.05 in	May 3	Oct. 10	161 days
Riverdale	18.4 in	May 7	Oct. 6	154 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	24,000
Beef Cows	7,500
Milk Cows	4,500

For further information visit the following websites:

<http://utahreach.org/weber/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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