

## Beaver County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

**Beaver County**

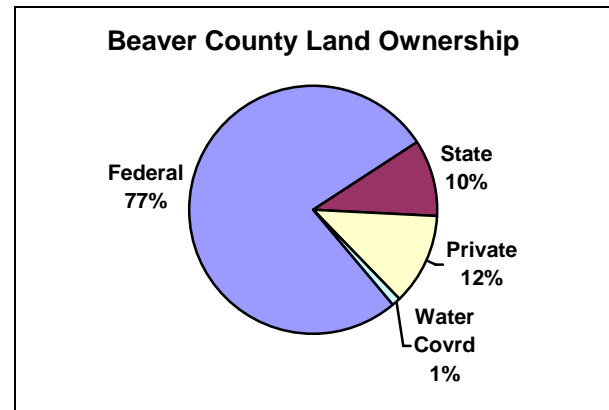
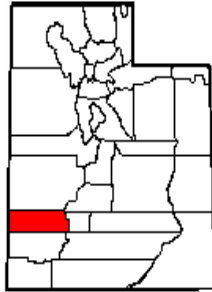
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Area: 2,590 square miles  
 (1,657,600 acres)

Population: 6,105  
 (U.S. Census Bureau  
 Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Beaver City



(Source: Utah County Fact Book, 2002)

### Location

Beaver County is located along the western central border of Utah. The high peaks of the Tushar Range mark the eastern boundary of Beaver County. Delano Peak (12,173 feet) and Mount Belknap (12,139) are among the highest mountains in the state. Most of the county, however, consists of the basin and range country typical of western Utah.

Beaver County is so named because of the many beaver that once lived there. In its past the county relied heavily on crops, livestock, and mining. Its primary economic base today comes from livestock, transportation, and trade.

### Land Ownership

The land ownership within the county is divided as follows:

All of the federally-owned ground is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS). The state owned ground is primarily part of wildlife preserves with a sizeable portion 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 139,158 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 544 acres and an average value \$1994 per acre. The county had 51,768 acres in cropland of which 32,067 acres were harvested and 36,073 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$161,300,000.

### Agricultural Snapshot

Beaver County ranks first in the state in hog production. It ranks first in the categories of total cash receipts and total livestock revenue.

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

2004 Primary Crops	Total Yield	Harvested Acres	Average Yield/Acre
Alfalfa hay	102,000 tons	23,000	4.4 tons
Other hay	7,600 tons	2,800	2.7 tons
Corn silage	24,000 tons	1,000	24 tons
Barley	66,500 bushels	700	95 bushels

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 grains 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 75% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally while the remaining 25% is bought in a neighboring county.

Major sources of irrigation water include ground water and a number of small streams.

### Growing Season

The growing season in Beaver County averages a little less than 4 months in length.

Wah Wah Ranch is further north than Beaver. Following are some of the details on climatology in the two areas.

Beaver	Average Weather Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Beaver	11.33 in	June 5	Sept. 16	103 days
Wah Wah Ranch	6.72 in	May 28	Sept. 25	120 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	32,000
Beef Cows	13,000
Milk Cows	3,000

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://utahreach.org/beaver/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>