

# Daggett County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

**Daggett County**

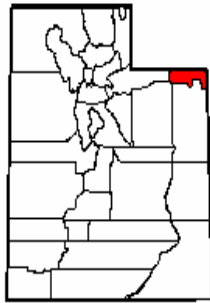
AG/Econ/county-2005-08

E. Bruce Godfrey, Extension Specialist  
 Boyd Kitchen, Acting County Agent  
 Dale Baker and Spencer Parkinson,  
 Research Assistants

Area: 698 square miles  
 (446,720 acres)

Population: 889  
 (U.S. Census Bureau  
 Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Manila

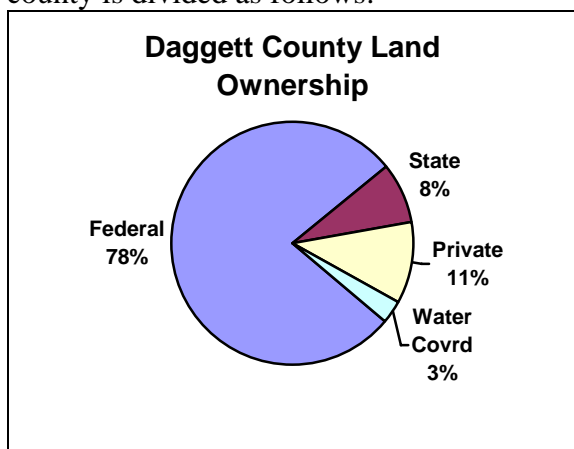


## Location

Daggett County is located along the eastern top border of Utah. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area was a favorite for mountain men, fur trappers, and traders. Ranching and farming have always played an important role in Daggett County. Its primary economic base today comes from tourism and recreation.

## 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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). There is a large portion in a National Recreation area. The state owned ground is 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 1997 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 26,485 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 736 acres. The 2002 Census listed the average value at \$700 per acre. The county had 11,339 acres in cropland of which 3,979 acres were harvested and 8,182 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$1,600,000.

## Agricultural Snapshot

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

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	7,500 tons	2,500	3.0 tons
Other hay	2,500 tons	2,500	1.4 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.

<b>Daggett</b>	<b>Climate Characteristics</b>			
County location	Annual Precip.	Last spring frost	First fall frost	Frost-free period
Allen's Ranch	8.97 in	May 23	Sept 17	118 days
Flaming Gorge	12.32 in	June 7	Sept 14	99 days
Manila	9.16 in	June 13	Sept 11	91 days

The most prevalent crop rotation that producers practice is to leave alfalfa in for seven or more years; plant oats for two years, then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get two 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.

Irrigation water sources include a number of Uintah Mountain-based streams.

### **Growing Season**

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

The major classes of livestock produced in the county along with their associated inventories as of January 2004 were:

<b>Livestock Type</b>	<b>Number of Head</b>
All Cattle & Calves	4,000
Beef Cows	3,000

For more information visit these Web sites:

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

---

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.