

Garfield County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

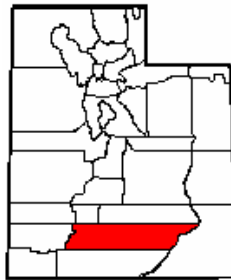
Garfield County

AG/Econ/county-2005-12

E. Bruce Godfrey, Extension Specialist
 Kevin Heaton, Garfield County Agent
 Dale Baker and Spencer Parkinson,
 Research Assistants

Area: 5,174 square miles
 (3,311,360 acres)

Population: 4,542
 (U.S. Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)



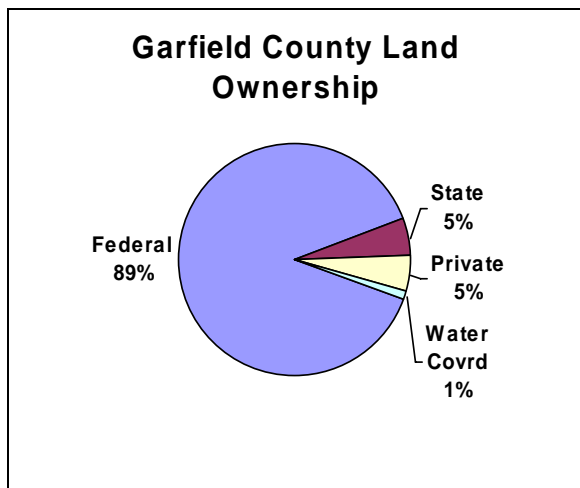
County seat: Panguitch

Location

Garfield County is located in the south central part of the state. Its economy is driven by cattle, lumber, and tourism. Some points of interest in Garfield County are Bryce Canyon National Park and Lake Powell.

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) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Portions are also maintained as national recreation areas and national parks. The majority of the state owned ground is under the jurisdiction of the Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA). A small portion is a wildlife preserve. The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 79,879 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 355 acres and an average value of \$1341 per acre. The county had 23,111 acres in cropland of which 5539 acres were harvested and 15,429 acres were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$6,000,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

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

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	15,500 tons	7,700	2.0 tons
Other hay	4,000 tons	2,000	2.0 tons

Garfield County has three main agricultural areas: Panguitch, Escalante, and Tropic. Panguitch is the county seat and is located in the western part of the county. Escalante is located 70 miles east of Panguitch in the middle of the county. Tropic is located 30

miles southwest of Panguitch near Bryce Canyon National Park.

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa is begun by plowing or deep disking to a depth of 10 to 12 inches. The ground is then finish disced and land planed. Alfalfa is generally planted with no cover crop with a surface drill. In Panguitch a cover crop of oat hay is more commonly practiced. The ground preparation for the oat hay is the same with producers planting in the spring.

The crops are irrigated with sprinkler systems with the most prevalent being wheel lines. In Panguitch flood irrigation is the most practiced irrigation method. Pivot irrigation systems are becoming more popular in Garfield County.

The most prevalent crop rotation that producers practice is to leave alfalfa in for seven to eight years and then reestablish. Producers typically get two cuttings of alfalfa in Panguitch and three in Escalante and Tropic each season if water is plentiful. The majority of the alfalfa is harvested using small balers.

About 30% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally, 50% are bought in neighboring counties (Iron and Sevier), and the remaining 20% is bought statewide.

About 50% of the irrigation water available in Garfield County is from the Sevier, Escalante, and Paria rivers. In addition, 45% of the water comes from Panguitch Lake and the Tropic and Wide Hollow reservoirs. The remaining 5% is drawn from deep wells.

About 95% of the farms have both crops and livestock. There are no dairies in Garfield County and the majority of the livestock are beef cattle.

Growing Season

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

Garfield	Climate Characteristics			
	County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze
Escalante	10.9 in	May 16	Oct. 3	142 days
Panguitch	9.74 in	June 21	Sept. 3	75 days
Tropic	12.08 in	June 1	Sept. 27	119 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	16,000
Beef Cows	8,500

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://utahreach.org/garfield/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.