

Rich County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

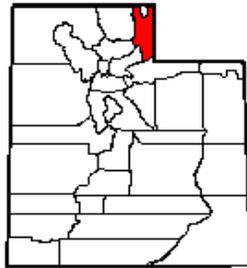
Rich County

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Area: 1,029 square
 miles (658,560 acres)

Population: 2,019
 (U.S. Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)



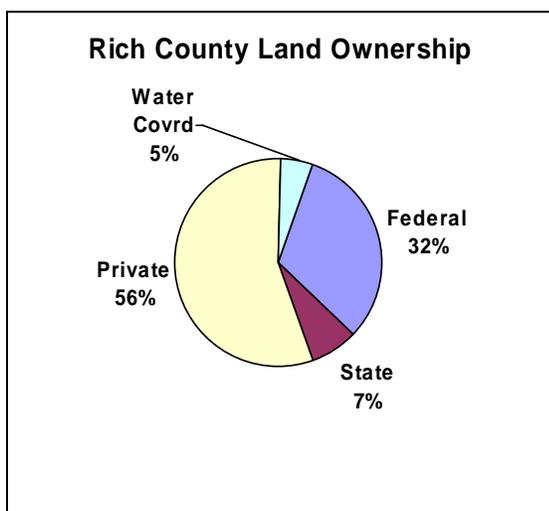
County seat: Randolph

Location

Rich County is located in the north east corner of Utah. It contains part of the Bear Lake and is bordered by Idaho on the north and Wyoming of the east.

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). 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 and Utah state parks and recreational areas. The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 509,279 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 3,772 acres and an average value of \$315 per acre. The county had 83,531 acres in cropland of which 32,869 were harvested and 49,357 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$13,100,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), the county was ranked first in the production of "other hay" and had the third largest inventory of beef cattle in the state.

The major crops grown in Rich 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	12,000 tons	6,500	1.8 tons
Other hay	49,000 tons	34,000	1.4 tons
Oats	7,800 bu	100	78 bu
Barley	91,000 bu	900	101 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 98% of all grain 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 one to 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 is provided by diversion of the Bear River.

Growing Season

The growing season in Rich County is one of the shortest in Utah. It averages

about two months. Following are some of the details on climatology in three areas of Rich County.

Rich	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Laketown	11.6 in	June 15	Sept. 9	87 days
Randolph	13.55 in	July 3	Aug. 20	47 days
Woodruff	9.35 in	June 27	Aug. 23	57 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	40,000
Beef Cows	25,000

For more information visit these Web Sites:

<http://utahreach.org/rich/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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