

Summit County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

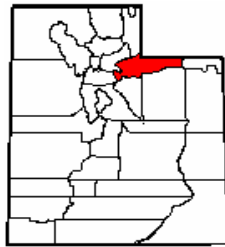
Summit County

AG/Econ/county-2005-25

E. Bruce Godfrey, Extension Specialist
 Sterling Banks, Summit County Agent
 Dale Baker and Spencer Parkinson,
 Research Assistants

Area: 1,871 sq. miles
 (1,197,440 acres)

Population: 33,020
 (U.S. Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)



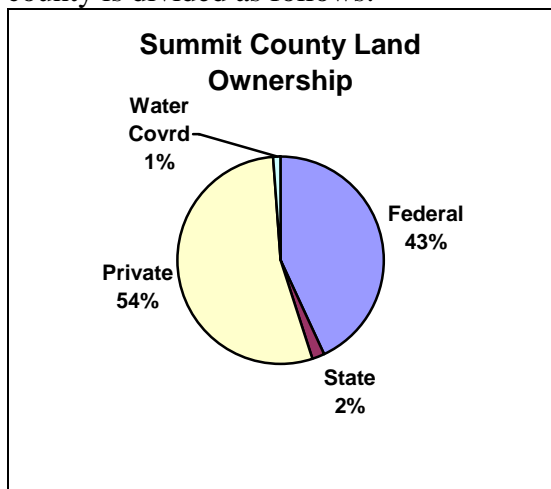
County seat: Coalville

Location

Summit County is located along the northern central border of Utah near the corner of Wyoming. Long ago the county relied heavily on mining of silver, gold, lead and zinc. Its primary economic base today comes from tourism, recreation and skiing.

Land Ownership

The land ownership within the county is divided as follows:



Source: (Utah County Fact Book, 2002)

All of the federally-owned ground is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. 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 375,689 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 674 acres and an average value of \$1,250 per acre. The county had 38,035 acres in cropland of which 18,413 were harvested and 28,332 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$19,500,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), Summit County ranked third among the counties in sheep and lamb inventory.

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa is begun by spraying Roundup in the fall or early spring to kill the quack grass prior to plowing or 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 small grains 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 Weber River, Chalk Creek, upper Provo River and tributaries.

Growing Season

The growing season in Summit County averages a little more than two months. Coalville is further north than Kamas.

Following are some of the details on climatology in the two areas.

Summit	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Coalville 13 E	15.96 in	June 20	Sept. 1	73 days
Kamas 3 NW	17.13 in	June 17	Sept. 8	83 days

The average precipitation received countywide does not vary significantly.

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

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	21,000 tons	8,000	2.6 tons
Other hay	18,000 tons	9,800	1.8 tons

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	27,000
Beef Cows	12,000
Milk Cows	1,300
Sheep & Lambs	28,000

There is also a substantial mink-raising industry in Summit County. Some 63,000 pelts were harvested in 2003.

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://utahreach.org/summit/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.