

Tooele County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

Tooele County

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Area: 6,930 square miles
 (4,435,200 acres)

Population: 47,965
 (U.S. Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Tooele City

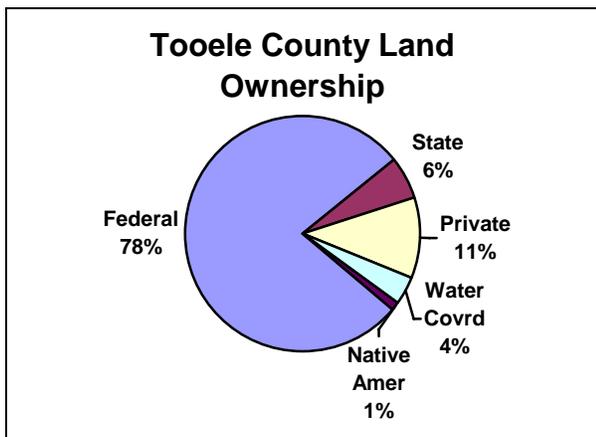


Location

Tooele County is in northwestern Utah. It borders Nevada.

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 or about 67% is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land

Management (BLM). The remaining federal ground is controlled by the military. 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, 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 415,056 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 1,092 acres and an average value of \$478 per acre. The county had 70,574 acres in cropland of which 19,061 were harvested and 22,835 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$18,100,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

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

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	38,000 tons	11,000	3.5 tons
Other hay	8,000 tons	3,500	2.3 tons
Barley	68,000 bu	900	76 bu

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa is begun by plowing and then disking. The ground is then harrowed and planted. The procedure is the same for planting small grains.

The most prevalent crop rotation that producers practice is to leave alfalfa in for seven years, small grains for one to two years, and then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get 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.

The majority, about 40% of the irrigation water available in Tooele County is from the Vernon Creek and Deep Creek. Another 30% is drawn from the Grantsville, Vernon, and Tooele reservoirs. The remaining 30% comes from deep wells.

Growing Season

The growing season in Tooele County averages four and a half months. Following are some of the details on climatology in four areas of Tooele County.

Tooele County locations	Climate Characteristics			
	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze- free period
Ibapah	9.66 in	June 21	Aug. 31	72 days
Tooele	17.47 in	May 5	Oct. 14	164 days
Vernon	10.47 in	June 1	Sept. 18	110 days
Wendover WSO Airport	4.7 in	April 17	Oct. 2	189 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	28,000
Beef Cows	16,500
Sheep & Lambs	5,300

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://utahreach.org/tooele/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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