

Grand County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

Grand County

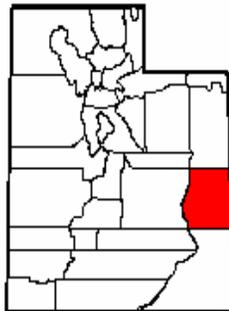
AG/Econ/county-2005-13

E. Bruce Godfrey, Extension Specialist
 Michael Johnson, Grand County Agent
 Dale Baker and Spencer Parkinson,
 Research Assistants

Area: 3,682 square miles
 (2,356,480 acres)

Population: 8,759
 (U.S. Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Moab

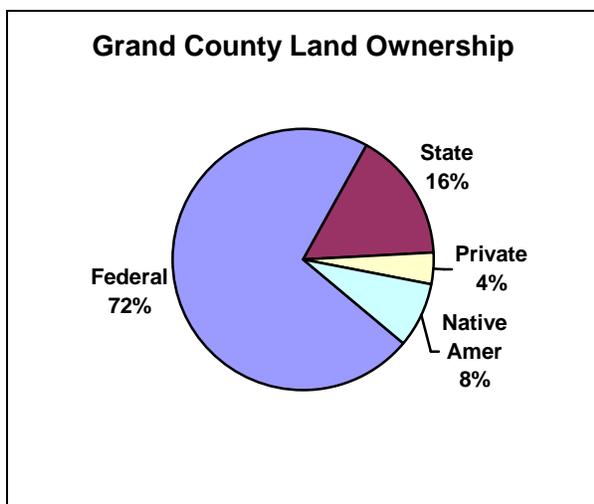


Location

Grand County borders Colorado. It is located in the center along the eastern border of the state.

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). A large portion is maintained as a national park. 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 52,729 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 561 acres and an average value of \$1057 per acre. The county had 11,888 acres in cropland of which 2,450 acres were harvested and 3,360 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$2,100,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

There were few acres of major crops grown in Grand County in 2004.

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa is begun by plowing prior to disking. 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 year, and then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get four cuttings of alfalfa each year.

Grand County has a number of small farms that produce vegetables, asparagus,

and pistachios. Grapes and organically grown crops are also produced.

The majority (about 85%) of the irrigation water available in Grand County is from Kens Lake. The other 15% comes from the Colorado River flow into small irrigation ponds.

Growing Season

The growing season in Grand County is among the longest in Utah. It averages about five and a half months. Following are some of the details on climatology in two areas of Grand County.

Grand	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Cisco	7.11 in	May 5	Oct. 4	154 days
Moab	9 in	April 16	Oct. 16	186 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	3,000
Beef Cows	2,000

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://utahreach.org/grand/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.