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Sevier County Agriculture Profile

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Sevier County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

Sevier County

AG/Econ/county-2005-24

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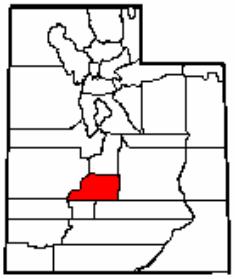


Area: 1,910 square miles (1,222,400 acres)

Population: 19,103 (U.S. Census Bureau Estimate, 2003)

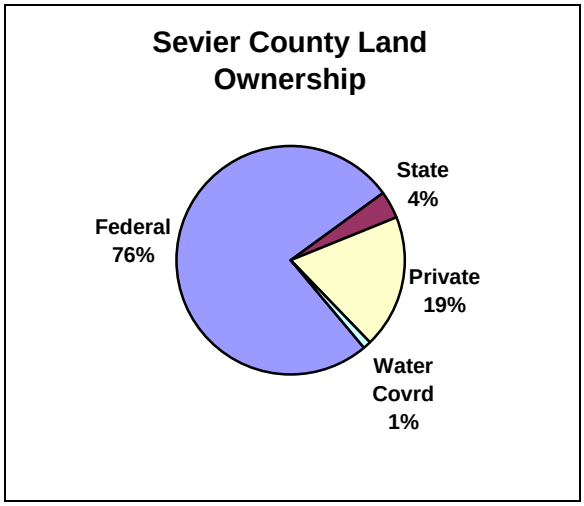
County seat: Richfield

Location

Sevier County is located in the center 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). 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. The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 164,817 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 290 acres and an average value of $1,330 per acre. The county had 66,449 acres of cropland of which 45,140 were harvested and 58,620 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at $52,300,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

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

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	109,000 tons	31,000	3.5 tons
Other hay	7,000 tons	3,000	2.3 tons
Corn silage	49,500 tons	2,600	19 tons
Corn grain	67,500 bu	500	135 bu
Oats	16,800 bu	200	84 bu
Barley	102,000 bu	1,100	93 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 typically not 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 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 Sevier River and its tributaries.

Growing Season

The growing season in Sevier County averages four months. Following are some of the details on climatology in two areas of Sevier County.

Sevier	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Richfield Radio KSVC	8.11 in	May 26	Sept. 20	118 days
Salina 24 E	13.78 in	June 3	Sept. 25	115 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	41,000
Beef Cows	12,000
Milk Cows	4,400
Sheep & Lambs	5,000

There is a significant trout production enterprise located in Sevier County.

For more information visit these Web sites:

http://utahreach.org/sevier/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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