

San Juan County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

San Juan County

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Area: 7,820 square miles
(5,004,800 acres)

Population: 13,901
(U.S. Census Bureau
Estimate, 2003)



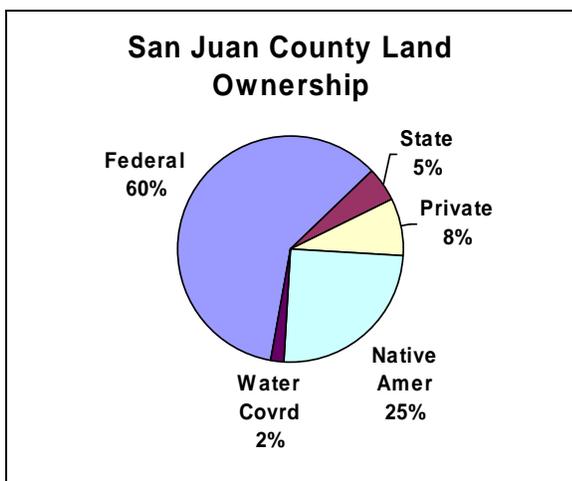
County seat: Monticello

Location

San Juan County is one of the largest counties in Utah. It is located in the south east corner of the state. It bordered by Colorado on the east and Arizona on the south. It is also part of the four corners.

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). Portions of the federally owned ground are maintained as national parks and recreation areas. 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 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 1,558,661 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 6,747 acres and an average value of \$271 per acre. The county had 150,736 acres in cropland of which 29,693 acres were harvested and 2,598 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$7,500,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), San Juan County ranked fourth among the counties in both oats and spring wheat production.

The primary crops grown in San Juan County along with their acreage are (see following page):

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
Oats	24,200 bu	1,100	22 bu
Wheat	575,500 bu	23,300	25 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 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.

Growing Season

The growing season in San Juan County averages almost five months. Following are some of the details on climatology in three areas of San Juan County.

San Juan	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze -free period
La Sal 2 SE	12.83 in	May 30	Sept. 24	118 days
Mexican Hat	6.23 in	April 24	Oct. 20	181 days
Navajo Mountain	9.18 in	May 22	Oct. 6	138 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	16,000
Beef Cows	9,500

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://utahreach.org/san%20juan/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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