

Salt Lake County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

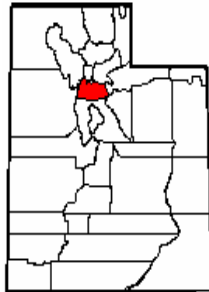
Salt Lake County

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Area: 737 square miles
 (471,680 acres)

Population: 924,247
 (U.S. Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)



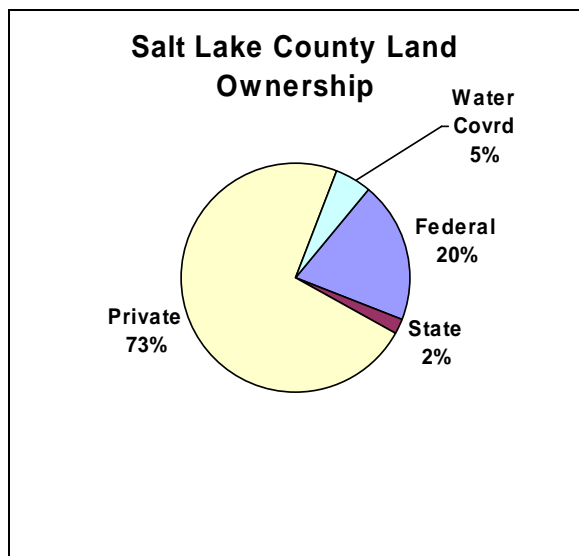
County seat: Salt Lake City

Location

Salt Lake County contains the state capital. It is located in the northern part of the state and borders the Great Salt Lake.

Land Ownership

The land ownership within the county is divided as follows:



Source: (Utah County Fact Book, 2002)

The federally-owned ground is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the military. The state owned ground is primarily wildlife preserves and Utah state parks and recreational areas. A small portion is 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 82,267 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 116 acres and an average value of \$4743 per acre. The county had 29,303 acres in cropland of which 11,591 acres were harvested and 9,889 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$19,300,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics) Salt Lake County ranked fifth in production of winter wheat.

Major crops grown in Salt Lake County with 2004 yield and acres harvested were:

| 2004 Primary Crops | Yields | Total harvested acres | Average yield/acre |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| All alfalfa hay | 14,000 tons | 3,500 | 4.0 tons |
| Other hay | 1,800 tons | 1,000 | 1.8 tons |
| Barley | 42,500 bu | 500 | 85 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.

Much of the irrigation water used in the county comes from diversion of the Jordan River.

Growing Season

The growing season in Salt Lake County is one of the longest in Utah. It averages about five and a half months. Following are some of the details on climatology in three areas of Salt Lake County.

| Salt Lake County locations | Climate Characteristics | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Annual Precip. | Last spring freeze | First fall freeze | Freeze -free period |
| Alta | 54.72 in | June 15 | Sept. 11 | 89 days |
| Draper, point of the mountain | 15.51 in | April 26 | Oct. 17 | 177 days |
| University of Utah | 18.46 in | May 1 | Oct. 20 | 175 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 | 10,000 |
| Beef Cows | 4,500 |
| Sheep | 1,400 |

There is also a substantial mink-raising industry in Salt Lake County. Some 34,000 pelts were harvested in 2003.

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://utahreach.org/salt%20lake/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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