

Wasatch County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

Wasatch County

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Area: 1,177 square miles
 (753,280 acres)

Population: 17,509
 (U.S. Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Heber City

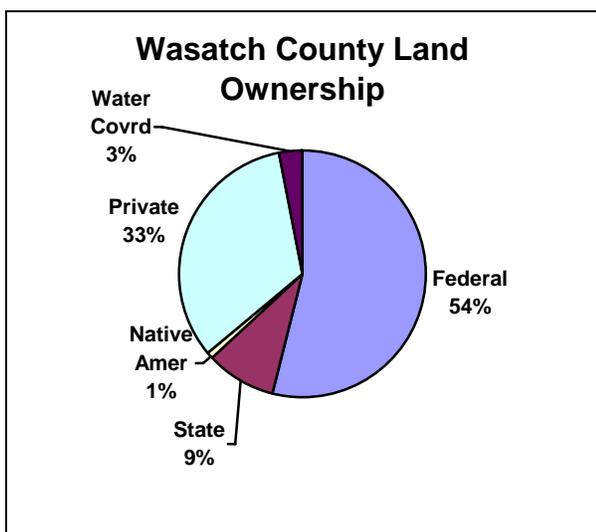


Location

Wasatch County is located in the north east quadrant 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, or about 99%, is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The state owned ground is primarily part of Utah state parks, recreational areas, and wildlife preserves. A portion is also 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 69,612 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 183 acres and an average value of \$2936 per acre. The county had 15,196 acres in cropland of which 8,332 acres were harvested and 13,787 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$5,600,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

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

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	22,000 tons	6,300	3.5 tons
Other hay	4,400 tons	1,800	2.4 tons

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa ground 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.

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.

Irrigation water comes from various sources including the Provo River and its tributaries.

Growing Season

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

Wasatch County locations	Climate Characteristics			
	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze -free period
Deer Creek Dam	22.05 in	June 11	Sept. 12	94 days
Heber	16.01 in	June 13	Sept. 7	86 days
Soldier Summit	14.55 In	July 1	Aug. 23	53 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	11,000
Beef Cows	6,500
Milk Cows	1,000
Sheep & Lambs	600

For more information visit these Web sites:

<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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