

Davis County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

Davis County

AG/Econ/county-2005-09

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Area: 304 square miles
 (194,560 acres)

Population: 255,597
 (U.S. Census Bureau
 Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Farmington

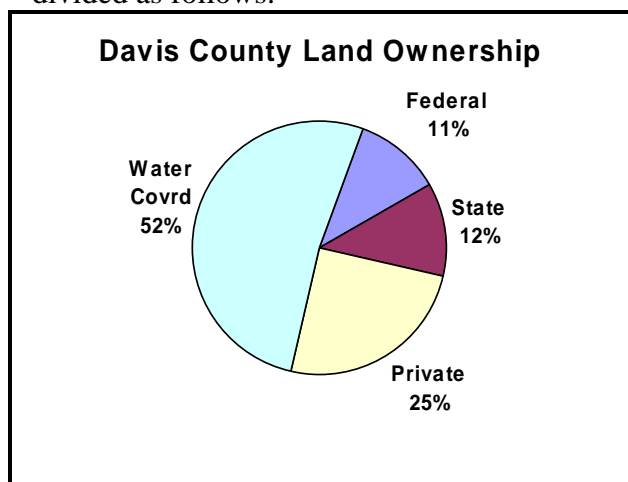


Location

Davis County is the smallest county in Utah. 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 majority of the federally-owned ground, about 85%, is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The remaining federal ground is controlled by

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the military. The state owned ground is primarily part of Utah state parks and recreational areas. Portions of the state owned land are wildlife preserves with a small portion 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 65,857 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 113 acres and an average value of \$3,802 per acre. The county had 26,632 acres in cropland of which 17,879 were harvested and 21,275 acres were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$30,300,000.

Agricultural Snapshot

In the 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), the county ranked first in the state in the production of dry beans. It was second in production of potatoes and dry onions. It was third in spring wheat and sweet cherries and fourth in winter wheat and corn for grain.

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

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total Harvested Acres	Average Yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	34,000 tons	7,000	4.9 tons
Other hay	4,200 tons	1,500	2.8 tons
Corn silage	26,000 tons	900	29 tons

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Corn grain	169,000 bu.	1,000	169 bu
Barley	82,500 bu.	800	103 bu
Wheat (2003)	358,400 bu	3,800	94 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. The majority of all farming and ranching in the county occurs in the Coalville/Kamas area in the western central part of the county. The eastern side of the county has a lot of rugged mountain terrain and high pasture ground.

The majority, about 65% of the irrigation water available in Davis County, is from the Weber River and the Echo and Rockport reservoirs. The other 35% is drawn from two creeks in the area, Chalk and Davis.

Growing Season

The growing season in Davis 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 Davis County.

Davis	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last Spring freeze	First Fall freeze	Freeze -free period
Antelope Island	15.48 in	May 4	Oct. 5	155 days
Bountiful-Val Verda	23.07 in	April 18	Oct. 25	192 days
Farmington USU Field Station	22.28 in	May 2	Oct. 10	162 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	9,000
Beef Cows	5,000
Milk Cows	500
Sheep & Lambs	800

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://utahreach.org/davis/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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