Carbon County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

Carbon County AG/Econ/county-2005-07

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Area: 1,478 square miles
(945,920 acres)

Population: 19,764
(US Census Bureau
Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Price

Location
Carbon County is located south of
Duchesne and Wasatch counties in east-
central Utah. Long ago the county relied
heavily on mining of silver, gold, lead and
zinc. Its primary economic base today comes
from tourism, recreation and skiing.

Land Ownership
The land ownership within the county is
divided as follows:

All of the federally-owned ground is
under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land
Management (BLM) and the US Forest
Service (USFS). The state owned ground is
primarily part of wildlife preserves with a
sizeable 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 199,384 acres in
farms and ranches in the county with an
average size of 821 acres and an average value
of $439 per acre. The county had 18,247
acres in cropland of which 5,997 acres were
harvested and 10,684 were irrigated. The
value of livestock and crops produced was
listed at $3,300,000.

Agricultural Snapshot
In 2003 county production statistics
(2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), Carbon
County was ranked third in the state in apricot
production.

The major crops grown in Carbon
County with 2004 yields and total acres
harvested were (see following page):
Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa is begun by spraying Roundup in the fall or early spring to kill the quack grass prior to discing. 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.

Irrigation water sources include the Price River and its tributaries.

### Growing Season
The growing season in Carbon County averages three months in length. The three locations are examples of variations in growing season: Price Game Farm is located in the south east portion of the county, Clear Creek is in the southern part of the county at an elevation of 8307 feet above sea level, and Scofield Dam is located in the north.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2004 Primary Crops</th>
<th>Yields</th>
<th>Total harvested acres</th>
<th>Average yield/acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All alfalfa hay</td>
<td>17,000 tons</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>3.4 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other hay</td>
<td>1,500 tons</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.5 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>7,000 bu</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>70 bu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following are some of the details on climatology in the three areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carbon County Location</th>
<th>Annual Precip.</th>
<th>Last Spring Freeze</th>
<th>First Fall Freeze</th>
<th>Freeze-Free Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clear Creek</td>
<td>23.05 in.</td>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>51 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price Game Farm</td>
<td>9.75 in.</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>144 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scofield Dam</td>
<td>14.56 in.</td>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>75 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The major classes of livestock produced in the county along with their associated inventories as of January 2004 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock Type</th>
<th>Number of Head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Cattle &amp; Calves</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Cows</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information visit these Web sites:

- [http://climate.usu.edu/utahclim/freeze/default.htm](http://climate.usu.edu/utahclim/freeze/default.htm)
- [http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/summary/listut.html](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/summary/listut.html)
- [http://utahreach.org/carbon/visitor/about.htm](http://utahreach.org/carbon/visitor/about.htm)