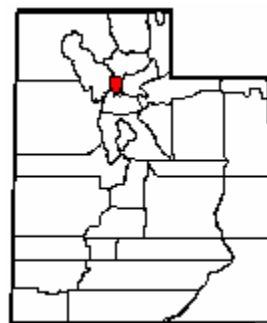


Size and Scope of Davis County Agriculture 2019

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Location

Davis County is the smallest county in Utah by land area and the second smallest by total area. It is located in the north-central part of the state and borders the Great Salt Lake. Other surrounding Utah counties include Weber, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Box Elder. As of 2017, the population was estimated at 347,637.

Land Ownership

The land ownership within the county is divided as shown in Figure 1.

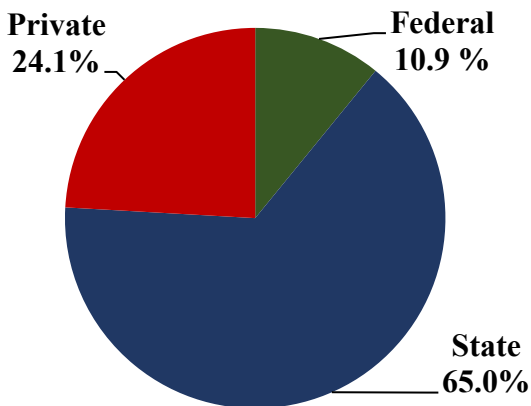


Figure 1. Davis County Land Ownership

Source: 2017 Utah Counties Fact Book

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 the 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 residential and commercial lots with some remaining farm ground and grazing areas.

The 2017 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 528 farming operations with 51,793 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 98 acres and an average value of \$9,325 per acre. The county had 7,718 acres in cropland of which 6,316 acres were harvested. There were 9,995 acres of irrigated cropland and pastureland.

Growing Season

The growing season in Davis County is one of the longest in Utah and averages about five and a half months. Table 1 displays some of the details on climatology in two areas of

Davis County according to the Utah Climate Center (2019).

Table 1. Davis County Annual Precipitation and Average Frost-Free Days				
Location	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Bountiful	23.54 in	April 19	Oct. 22	186.8 days
Kaysville USU Field Station	21.98 in	April 29	Oct. 13	165.6 days

Crop Production

The major crops grown in Davis County with 2017 yields and total acres harvested are displayed in Table 2. Other crops such as corn and barley are also produced within the county but acreages and yields were not reported in the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

Table 2. Davis County 2017 Crop Acres and Yields			
Primary Crops	Yields	Harvested Acres	Average Yield/acre
Hay	13,768 tons	3,341	4.1 tons
Wheat	137,569 bu.	1,244	110.6 bu.
Vegetables	N/A	729	N/A
Orchards	N/A	120	N/A

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

Most of the wheat is sold to regional elevators while most of the hay is sold to local farmers and livestock producers. Vegetables and orchard production are sold through farmer markets, directly to grocery stores, roadside stands, and wholesale markets.

Within Davis County besides field crop production, there are also several large nurseries including one of the largest in Utah, J&J Nursery in Layton. Although this production is not measured in the

Census of Agriculture, it is still an important element of the agricultural industry in the county.

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 7 years, plant oats for 2 years, then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get three to four cuttings of alfalfa each year. About 25% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally while the remaining 75% are bought in a neighboring county.

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% comes from various creeks draining from canyons spread across the mountain range east of Davis County. Most producers use irrigate through sprinkler (both wheel lines and pivots) but some still use flood or furrow methods.

Livestock Production

The inventories of the major classes of livestock produced in the county as of 2017 compared with 2012 inventories are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Major Livestock Commodities			
Livestock	2012	2017	% Change
All Cattle	3,206	3,492	8.9%
Beef Cows	1,963	2,157	9.9%
Sheep & Lambs	606	491	-19.0%

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

Producers typically market their livestock using direct markets, sale barn (Anderson livestock auction), and brokers.

Farm Income and Age of Operator

Cash receipts from 2017 crops equaled \$20,241,000 and cash receipts from livestock totaled \$3,558,000. Total 2017 cash receipts were \$23,798,000, down \$12,962,000 from 2012 (\$36,760,000). This is a notable decrease not only because of the magnitude of the decrease but also because it represents the lowest farm income recorded for the county since the 1987 census. However, for the 2017 census no corn, wheat, or barley production was reported for Davis County. This would likely explain the below average reported farm income. The average age of the primary farmer or rancher was 60.7 in 2017. The principal operator average age is graphed below in Figure 2 for all USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture years since 1997.

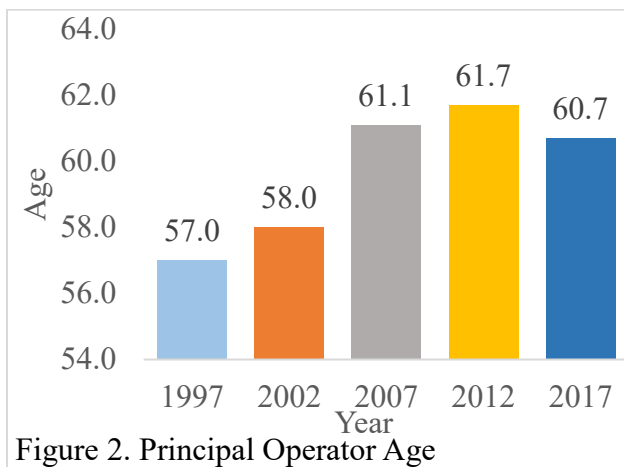


Figure 2. Principal Operator Age
Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

Sources

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (2019). 2017 Ag Census Data. Retrieved from: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/Census_Data_Query_Tool/index.php

Utah Association of Counties. (2017). 2017 Utah Counties Fact Book. Murray. Retrieved from <https://uac.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/2017-Utah-Counties-Fact-Book.pdf>

Utah Climate Center. (2019). Retrieved July 10, 2019, from Utah State University: <https://climate.usu.edu/>

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