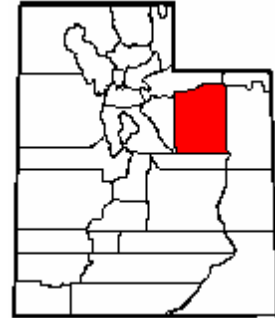




Size and Scope of Duchesne County Agriculture 2019

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Location

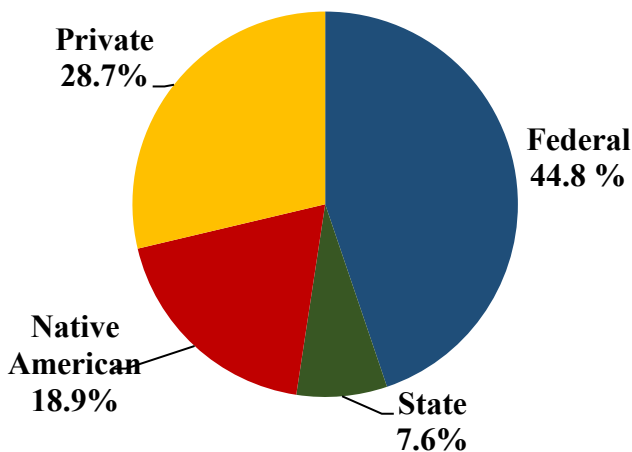
Duchesne County is located in the northeastern part of the state. The state's highest mountain, Kings Peak (13,528 feet), is located in the county's Uinta Mountains. Its economy is based around livestock, alfalfa, oil, and natural gas. As of 2017, the population was estimated at 20,026. Surrounding Utah counties include Daggett, Uintah, Carbon, Utah, Wasatch, and Summit.

The majority of the federally owned ground is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The state-owned ground is primarily under the jurisdiction of the Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA). Portions of the state-owned land are wildlife preserves. The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

Land Ownership

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

The 2017 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 1,057,413 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 995 acres and an average value of \$976 per acre. The county had 77,299 acres in cropland of which 59,527 acres were harvested. There were a total of 96,513 acres of cropland and pasture land that were irrigated.



Growing Season

The growing season in Duchesne County averages about 4.25 months. Table 1 displays some of the details on climatology in three areas of Duchesne County according to the Utah Climate Center (2019).

Figure 1. Duchesne County Land Ownership

Source: 2017 Utah Counties Fact Book

Location	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Roosevelt Radio	7.26 in	May 18	Sept. 25	130.3
Duchesne	9.45 in	May 22	Sept. 23	124.9
Myton	6.83 in	May 23	Sept. 29	133.4 days

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

Crop Production

The major crops grown in Duchesne County with 2017 yields and total acres harvested are displayed in Table 2.

Primary Crops	Yields	Harvested Acres	Average Yield/acre
Hay	186,335 tons	53,691	3.5 tons
Oats	12,870 bu.	163	80.0 bu.
Corn, Grain	352,367 bu.	2,130	165.4 bu.
Corn, Silage	69,811 tons	3,291	21.2 tons

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

The agricultural area of Duchesne County can be broken into two general areas. One of the geographical areas is south of Myton in Pleasant Valley and along the Duchesne River from Duchesne to Roosevelt. This is the area where most of the corn is grown. A typical farm rotation in this area is to leave alfalfa in for four to five years and then plant corn for two years. Farmers generally get three to four cuttings of alfalfa in this area. The second geographical area is located north of Duchesne and Roosevelt and is generally a grass hay culture. The grass is usually cut once for hay and then beef cattle graze off the re-growth in the fall. Farmers that sell alfalfa hay generally use midsize square balers. Farmers that feed their alfalfa

and grass hay to livestock generally use round balers.

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa is plowing and then disking. The ground is then cultipacked and planted. The procedure is the same for planting small grains and corn. The majority of farmers use sprinkler systems with wheel lines being the most common. Pivots have also become more popular in Duchesne County. Some specialty crops (e.g., a corn maze near Bluebell and pumpkins) are also grown in the county.

Weed and pest control are a vital part of farming and ranching in Duchesne County. Producers need to know what weeds are problems in their crops and what the economic threshold is for the pests that can plague them. The USU Extension faculty can assist the producer in identifying specific problems and give them recommendation on control.

About 60% of the irrigation water available in Duchesne County is from reservoirs. Moon Lake, Big Sand Wash, and Starvation are the most prominent reservoirs. The other 40% is drawn from the Duchesne and Strawberry rivers.

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.

Livestock	2017	2012	% Change
All Cattle	54,683	46,907	16.6%
Beef Cows	27,555	28,082	-1.9%
Milk Cows	3,194	2,608	22.5%
Sheep & Lambs	2,668	1,514	76.2%

Small grains and sorghum sedan grass are also produced for forage in the County and they have the potential for increasing livestock loss if not processed correctly. Extension faculty encourage producers to test their small grains and sorghum sedan hay for nitrates to reduce the possibility of nitrate poisoning.

Farm Income and Age of Operator

Cash receipts from 2017 crops equaled \$16,130,000 and cash receipts from livestock totaled \$41,762,000. Total 2017 cash receipts were \$57,892,000, nearly identical to the previous census of agriculture record from 2012 (\$57,123,000). The average age of the primary farmer or rancher was 54.1 in 2017. The principal operator age is graphed below in figure 2 for all USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture years since 1997.

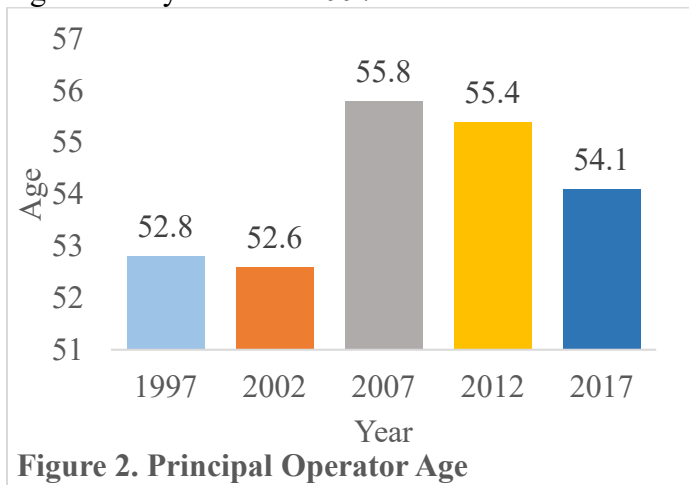


Figure 2. Principal Operator Age

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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