

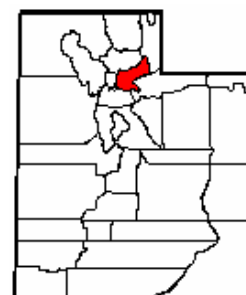


October 2019

AG/Farmland/2019-07pr

Size and Scope of Morgan County Agriculture 2019

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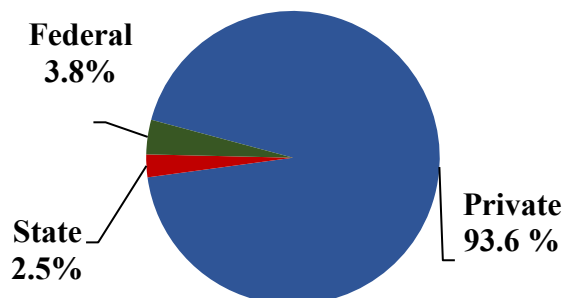
Location

Morgan County is located in the north central part of the state. Other surrounding Utah counties include Rich, Summit, Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber. As of 2017, the population was estimated at 11,873.

Morgan County is Utah's third smallest county by land area with 609 square miles of land.

Land Ownership

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



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 and Utah state parks and recreational areas. The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

The 2017 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 242,666 acres in farms or ranches with an average size of 652 acres and an average value of \$2,200 per acre. The county had 16,629 acres in cropland of which 12,636 acres were harvested and 9,023 were irrigated.

Growing Season

The growing season in Morgan County averages just under 3.5 months. Table 1 displays some of the details on climatology in the county seat, Morgan according to the Utah Climate Center (2019).

Figure 1. Morgan County Land Ownership

Source: 2017 Utah Counties Fact Book

Table 1. Morgan County Annual Precipitation and Average Frost-Free Days				
Location	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Morgan	17.53 in	Jun. 6	Sept. 11	97.2 days

Crop Production

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

Table 2. Morgan County 2017 Crop Acres and Yields			
Primary Crops	Yields	Harvested Acres	Average Yield/acre
Hay	32,899 tons	10,910	3.0 tons
Barley	92,568 bu.	1,223	75.7 bu.
Corn Silage	10,094 tons	392	25.8 tons
Oats	2,740 bu.	50	54.8 bu.

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

The most prevalent crop rotation that producers practice is to leave alfalfa in for 7 years, plant small grains for 2 years, then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get two to three cuttings of alfalfa each year. About 20% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally while the remaining 80% are bought in a neighboring county.

Most of the cropland is irrigated with flood or sprinklers. There are also some dry farms in the county. The majority of the dry farms are on the hillsides and the irrigated land is in the valleys below. About 65% of the irrigation water available in Morgan County is from the Weber River, Echo and Rockport reservoirs. The other 35% is drawn from East Canyon Creek.

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. By the first quarter of 2019, many of the dairies in the county had stopped milk production and sold their milk cows. Currently, there are three commercial dairies and one custom order, raw-milk dairy. The commercial dairies sell to either Gossner Foods or Dairy Farmers of America. There is also a substantial mink-raising industry in Morgan County. The mink pelts are prepared locally and sold at auctions out of state.

Table 3. Major Livestock Commodities			
Livestock	2012	2017	% Change
All Cattle	7,478	7,910	5.8%
Beef Cows	3,926	4,556	16.0%
Milk Cows	550	832*	51.3%
Sheep & Lambs	10,360	17,814	71.9%
* The total number of milk cows in 2017 do not reflect the current number in the county.			

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

Calves are weaned around 500 lbs. and are fed and fattened locally until they reach approximately 850-900 lbs. usually by midwinter. At that point, they are typically shipped and sold out of state at sale barns. Some are sold regionally in neighboring counties. The majority of cows spend the winter in local pastures and are fed supplemental hay. Almost all of the hay grown in the county is fed to livestock within the region

Farm Income and Age of Operator

Cash receipts from 2017 crops equaled \$2,470,000 and cash receipts from livestock totaled \$14,659,000. Total 2017 cash receipts were \$17,129,000, down just over \$3 million since the

previous census of agriculture record from 2012 (\$20,362,000)

The average age of the primary farmer or rancher was 55.4 in 2017. This is a notable decrease since the previous census of agriculture in 2012 when the average principal operator age was 59.1. The

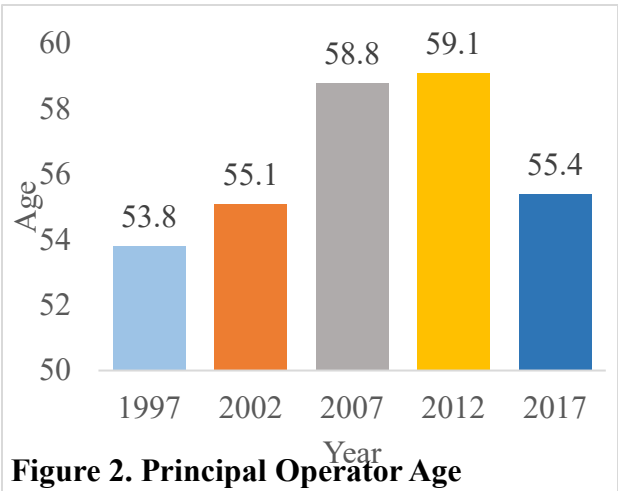


Figure 2. Principal Operator Age

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

principal operator average age is graphed below in Figure 2 for all USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture years since 1997.

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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This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ken White, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State University.