

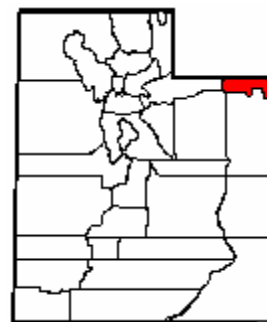


## Size and Scope of Daggett County Agriculture 2019

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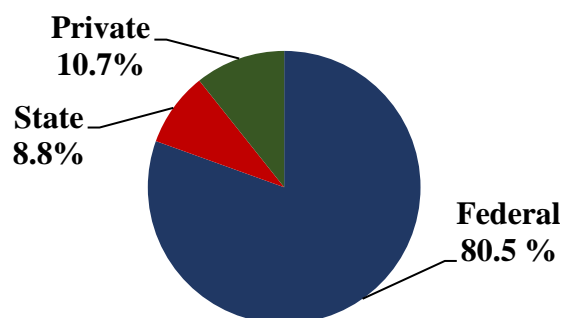


### Location

Daggett County is located along the eastern top border of Utah. To the north, Daggett County is bordered by Wyoming while Colorado shares its border to the east. Other surrounding Utah counties include Uintah, Duchesne, and Summit. In the 19th century, the area was a favorite for mountain men, fur trappers, and traders. Ranching and farming have always played an important role in Daggett County. Its primary economic base today comes from tourism and recreation. The population was estimated at 1,029 in 2017.

### Land Ownership

Figure 1 shows the division of land ownership within the county.



**Figure 1. Daggett County Land Ownership**

Source: 2017 Utah Counties Fact Book

The majority of the federally owned land 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 includes primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

The 2017 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 17,671 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 340 acres and an average value of \$2,777 per acre. The county had 6,556 acres in cropland of which 5,409 acres were harvested. There were a total of 5,076 acres of cropland and pastureland irrigated.

### Growing Season

The growing season in Daggett County averages about 3.5 months. Table 1 displays some of the details on climatology in two areas of Daggett County according to the Utah Climate Center (2019).

<b>Table 1.</b> <i>Daggett County Annual Precipitation and Average Frost-Free Days</i>				
<b>Location</b>	<b>Annual Precip.</b>	<b>Last spring freeze</b>	<b>First fall freeze</b>	<b>Freeze-free period</b>
Dutch John	11.94 in	June 5	Sept. 15	101 days
Manila	8.98 in	June 1	Sept. 17	108 days

## Crop Production

Hay is the major crop grown in Daggett County. Table 2 displays the total acres of hay harvested in Daggett County as well as yields. Much of the hay is grass hay. Alfalfa and alfalfa-grass mixes are also grown.

<b>Table 2.</b> <i>Daggett County 2017 Crop Acres and Yields</i>			
<b>Primary Crops</b>	<b>Yields</b>	<b>Harvested Acres</b>	<b>Average Yield/Acre</b>
Hay	7,515 tons	5,390	1.4 tons

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

Typical ground preparation for planting hay is plowing and then disking. The ground is then cultipacked and planted. Much of the farmland has been converted to sprinklers with a majority being pivots.

Producers typically cut grass hay once and leave the regrowth for fall pasture. Two cuttings of alfalfa are harvested each year. Locally produced hay is fed to local cattle.

Irrigation water sources include a number of Uinta Mountain-based streams.

## Livestock Production

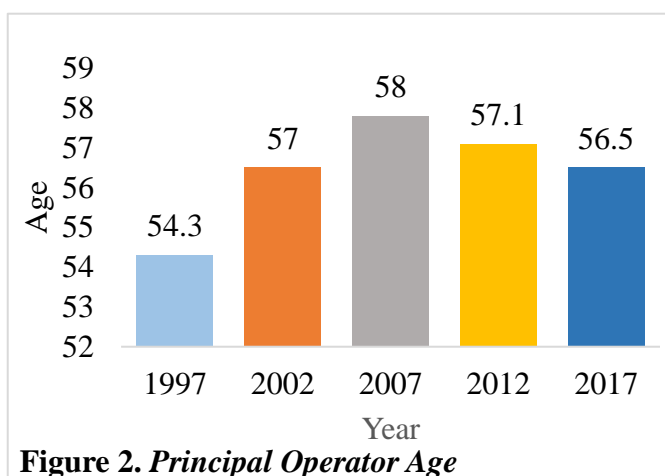
Table 3 inventories of the major classes of livestock produced in the county as of 2017 compared with 2012 inventories. Cattle graze privately owned pastures or public lands. Hay is fed in winter and early spring. Some cattle utilize desert ranges during the winter. Beef calves are typically sold in the fall through regional outlets, video sales, or by trucking to distant markets.

<b>Table 3.</b> <i>Major Livestock Commodities</i>			
<b>Livestock</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>% Change</b>
All Cattle	3,671	2,638	39.2%
Beef Cows	2,536	1,709	48.4%

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

## Farm Income and Age of Operator

Cash receipts from 2017 crops equaled \$340,000 and cash receipts from livestock totaled \$2,063,000. Total 2017 cash receipts were \$2,403,000. The average age of the primary farmer or rancher was 56.5 in 2017. Figure 2 below graphs the principal operator average age 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](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/Census_Data_Query_Tool/index.php)

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