



Size and Scope of Juab County Agriculture 2019

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Location

Juab County is located in the western central part of Utah. It shares its western border with Nevada. Other surrounding Utah counties include Tooele, Utah, Sanpete, and Millard. Its primary economic base comes from agriculture, manufacturing, mining, recreation, and electrical power. As of 2017, the population was estimated at 11,250.

The majority of the federally owned ground, about 96%, 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). The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

Land Ownership

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

The 2017 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 264,644 acres in farms or ranches in Juab County with an average size of 906 acres and an average value of \$1,327 per acre. The county had 56,608 acres in cropland, harvesting 27,013 of those acres. There were 23,731 acres of cropland and pastureland that were irrigated.

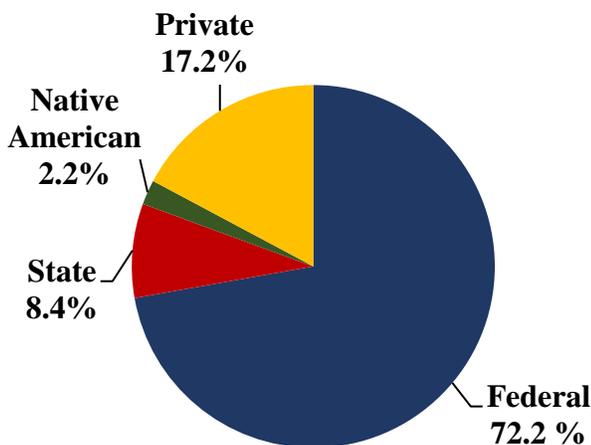


Figure 1. Juab County Land Ownership

Source: 2017 Utah Counties Fact Book

Growing Season

The growing season in Juab County averages just over four months. Table 1 displays some of the details on climatology in three areas of Juab County according to the Utah Climate Center (2019). Callao is in the northwestern part of the county, Little Sahara is in the center of the county, and Nephi is in eastern part of the county.

Table 1.
Juab County Annual Precipitation and Average Frost-Free Days

Location	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Callao	5.8 inches	May 16	Sept. 26	135 days
Nephi	14.7 inches	May 15	Oct. 2	142 days
Little Sahara	11.1 inches	May 28	Sept. 19	116 days

The average precipitation received countywide varies significantly, because it straddles two climatic zones. The western part is a desert zone within the Great Basin, Mojave Desert region. The eastern part is still within this region, but it is a transition zone on the eastern desert edge and is part of a semiarid steppe climate.

Crop Production

Table 2 displays the major crops grown in Juab County, with 2017 yields and total acres harvested.

Table 2. <i>Juab County 2017 Crop Acres and Yields</i>			
Primary Crops	Yields	Harvested Acres	Average Yield/Acre
Hay	83,935 tons	19,425	4.3 tons
Barley	36,268 bu.	466	77.8 bu.
Corn Grain	115,762 bu.	735	157.5 bu.
Corn Silage	44,174 tons	1,889	23.4 tons
Wheat	115,964 bu.	3,902	29.7 bu.

Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

Most dry land grain in the county is planted utilizing no-till drilling systems. Typical ground preparation for planting in irrigated grain ground occurs by plowing up any ground coming out of alfalfa. The land is disked and then harrowed after plowing. Land leveling is often done before replanting alfalfa to provide a smooth and level surface. About 60% of all planted wheat is winter wheat and 40% is spring wheat.

The most prevalent crop rotation practice is to leave alfalfa in for seven years, plow it up, plant small grains for a year, then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get three cuttings of alfalfa each year. About 75% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally while the remaining 25% are bought in a neighboring county. About 95% of all farming done within the county occurs in the eastern part near Nephi, while 5% occurs in the extreme west. The majority of all grazing in the county occurs near the farmed areas. Those areas are adjacent to the borders, 15 miles inward from the west border, and 100 miles inward from the east border. As a result, much of the land in the central part of the county is not used for agricultural purposes.

Juab County boasts one of the largest herb farms in the world. Located 10 miles north of Nephi in Mona, Young Living Farms covers more than 1,600 acres of production ground. The company grows various herbs used for therapeutic-grade essential oils.

The majority of the irrigation water available in Juab County, about 75%, is from deep well pumping. The other 25% comes from rivers and streams.

Livestock Production

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

Livestock	2012	2017	% Change
All Cattle	17,314	19,494	12.6%
Sheep and Lambs	7,444	9,376	26.0%

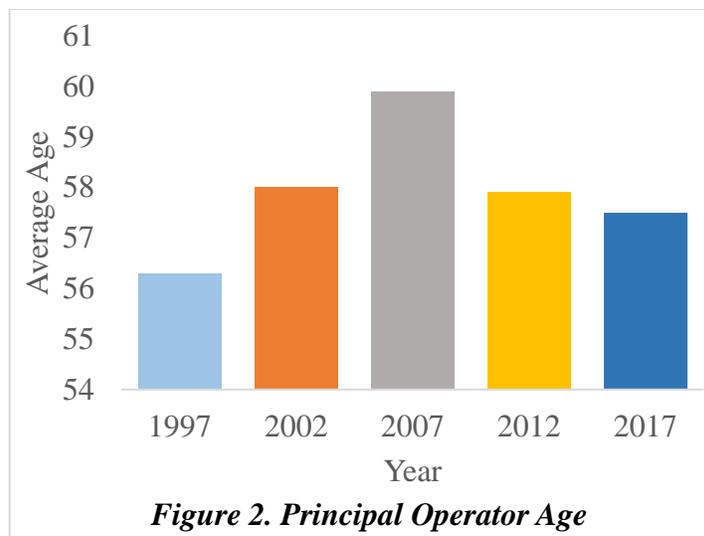
Source: 2017 USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture

Livestock producers graze cattle on the desert in west Juab County during the winter if they have federal grazing permits or private winter range ground. Livestock producers that do not have winter rangeland pasture their cattle and feed them hay. Smaller operations sell calves in the fall and winter at local auctions, and larger operations prefer to sell directly to cattle buyers or use video auctions. Most producers retain a small number of calves as replacement heifers.

Most of the sheep production in Juab County takes place in the winter months on the West Desert. There are no summer grazing allotments in Juab County. The majority of producers sell their lambs through contract in August, and ship them in October.

Farm Income and Age of Operator

Cash receipts from 2017 crops equaled \$30,741,000 and cash receipts from livestock totaled \$22,938,000. Total 2017 cash receipts were \$53,679,000, increasing over \$25 million since the previous census of agriculture record from 2012 (\$28,357,000). The average age of the primary farmer or rancher was 57.5 in 2017. Figure 2 graphs the principal operator average age for all USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture years since 1997.



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

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