Weber County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

Weber County

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Area: 576 square miles (368,640 acres)
County seat: Ogden

Location
Weber County is located in the northern part of the state and borders the Great Salt Lake.

Land Ownership
The land ownership within the county is divided as follows:

Source: (Utah County Fact Book, 2002)

The majority of the federally-owned ground is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The remaining federal ground is controlled by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the military.

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.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 86,913 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 86 acres and an average value of $5,772 per acre. The county had 39,336 acres in cropland of which 25,913 acres were harvested and 31,425 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at $26,600,000.

Agricultural Snapshot
The major crops grown in Weber County with 2004 yields and total acres harvested were (see following page):
In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), Weber County was ranked fourth in peach production and fifth in corn for silage.

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa ground 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 not typically used prior to planting grains. About 98% of all grains are planted in the spring.

The most prevalent crop rotation that producers practice is to leave alfalfa in for seven years, plant oats for two years, then replant alfalfa. Producers typically get two to three cuttings of alfalfa each year. About 25% of all inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) are purchased locally while the remaining 75% is bought in a neighboring county.

Sources of irrigation water include the Ogden River, Weber River and their tributaries.

### Growing Season

The growing season in Weber County averages four and a half months. Following are some of the details on climatology in three areas of Weber County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Annual Precip.</th>
<th>Last Spring Freeze</th>
<th>First Fall Freeze</th>
<th>Freeze-free Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huntsville Monastery</td>
<td>22.11 in</td>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>87 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogden Sugar Factory</td>
<td>17.05 in</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>161 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverdale</td>
<td>18.4 in</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>154 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The major classes of livestock produced in the county along with their associated inventories as of January 2004 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock Type</th>
<th>Number of Head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Cattle &amp; Calves</td>
<td>24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Cows</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Cows</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information visit the following websites:

- [http://utahreach.org/weber/visitor/about.htm](http://utahreach.org/weber/visitor/about.htm)
- [http://climate.usu.edu/utahclim/freeze/default.htm](http://climate.usu.edu/utahclim/freeze/default.htm)
- [http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/summary/listut.html](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/summary/listut.html)

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**Sources:**

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