

# Sanpete County Agriculture Profile

Economics Department

**Sanpete County**

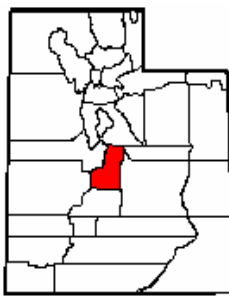
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Area: 1,588 square miles  
 (1,016,320 acres)

Population: 23,689  
 (U.S. Census Bureau  
 Estimate, 2003)

County seat: Manti

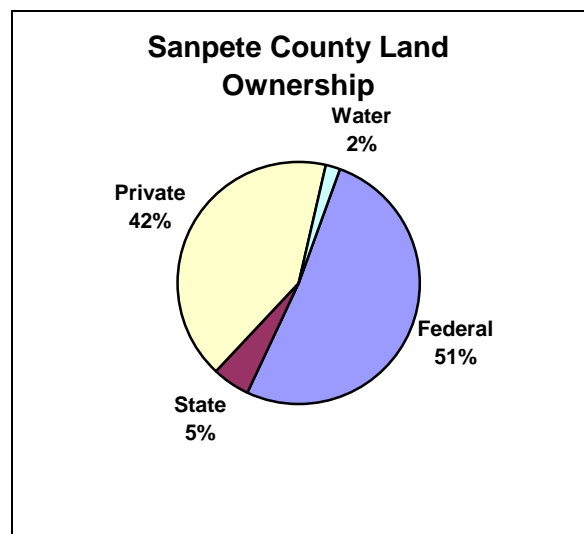


## Location

Sanpete County is located in the center of Utah.

## 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) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The state owned ground is under the jurisdiction of the Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA) and a portion is wildlife preserves. The private ground is primarily farm ground and grazing areas.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated that there were 357,184 acres in farms or ranches in the county with an average size of 471 acres and an average value of \$1,220 per acre. The county had 113,647 acres in cropland of which 48,892 were harvested and 65,367 were irrigated. The value of livestock and crops produced was listed at \$93,600,000.

## Agricultural Snapshot

Sanpete County is one of the primary agricultural production regions in the state. In 2003 county production statistics (2004 Utah Agricultural Statistics), the county ranked first in the production of turkeys and had the largest inventory of sheep in the state. It was second in the production of "other hay" and fifth in barley. Sanpete County had the largest inventory of sheep and was fifth for milk cows.

The county ranked second in cash receipts from livestock sales and fourth in total revenue from agricultural production.

The major crops grown in Sanpete County with 2004 yields and total acres harvested were (see following page):

2004 Primary Crops	Yields	Total harvested acres	Average yield/acre
All alfalfa hay	138,000 tons	35,000	3.9 tons
Other hay	37,000 tons	12,500	3.0 tons
Corn silage	54,000 tons	3,000	18 tons
Barley	203,000 bu	2,100	97 bu
Oats	30,600 bu	400	77 bu

Typical ground preparation for planting alfalfa 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 prior to planting grains. About 98% of all grain is planted in the spring of the year.

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 Sevier River and its tributaries.

### Growing Season

The growing season in Sanpete County averages about four months. Following are

some climatology data for three areas in the county:

Sanpete	Climate Characteristics			
County locations	Annual Precip.	Last spring freeze	First fall freeze	Freeze-free period
Manti	12.85 in	May 21	Sept. 27	129 days
Moroni	9.58 in	May 30	Sept. 22	116 days
Gunnison	8.93 in	Jun 2	Sep 15	105 days

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

Livestock Type	Number of Head
All Cattle & Calves	49,000
Beef Cows	18,000
Milk Cows	6,900
Sheep	50,000

For more information visit these Web sites:

<http://utahreach.org/sanpete/visitor/about.htm>

<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/htmlfiles/ut/ut.ppt.html>

<http://climate.usu.edu/utahclim/freeze/default.htm>

<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/summary/listut.html>

[http://www.utahweather.org/UWC/utahs\\_climate/climate\\_of\\_utah.html](http://www.utahweather.org/UWC/utahs_climate/climate_of_utah.html)

<http://biology.usgs.gov/s+t/SNT/noframe/gb150.htm>

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