# A Look at Utah Agriculture

Capital: Salt Lake City

Population: 3,000,000

Founded: January 4, 1896 (45th)

State Bird: California Seagull

State Tree: Quaking Aspen

State Flower: Sego Lily

Number of Counties: 29

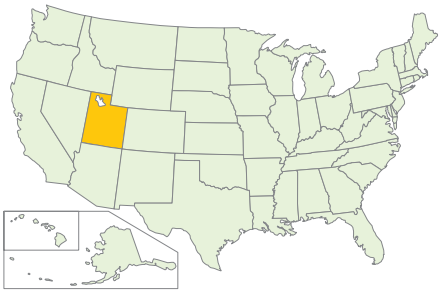
Largest City: Salt Lake City: 191,000

Nickname: Beehive State

Number of Farms: 18,000

Average Farm Size: 608 acres

Total Farmland: 11 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Utah is the rooftop of the U.S. The average elevation of the tallest peaks in each of Utah's counties is 11,222 feet above sea level—higher than the same average in any other state.
- The growing season ranges from 60 days in Northern Utah to 190 days in the southern part of the state.
- Due to its geographic diversity, annual precipitation varies greatly. The average annual precipitation is approximately 12". Utah is the second driest state in the nation.
- Irrigation of the rich but arid land has long been crucial to agricultural development. Utah's agriculture is dependent upon numerous reservoirs and vast reclamation projects.
- Lake Bonneville was Utah's Ice Age Lake. The water formed a huge lake that spread over the flat land of the Great Basin. It covered much of Utah, spreading through canyons and mountain valleys.
- After the recession of Lake Bonneville, the mountain streams flowed down to the lake, carrying loads of sediment. These sediments formed wide areas of loose soil, gravel, and sand, and are now some of the best soil and gravel deposits in the state. These soils are located along the Wasatch Front.
- Average topsoil depth ranges from 1" in the southern part of the state to 12" in the northern part.

## Crops & Livestock

- Utah grows barley, wheat, dry edible beans, potatoes, onions, and corn. Crop production accounts for 22%,or $532 million, in farm cash receipts.
- Utah is well-known for its homegrown sweet corn and tomatoes that are sold across the state at local farmers markets.
- Nationally, Utah ranks 2nd in tart cherries, 3rd in apricots, 7th in sweet cherries, and 11th in peaches.
- Forty-four percent of Utah's farm cash receipts, $1 billion, comes from meat sales (beef, hog, and sheep).
- Seventy-eight percent of the state's farm cash receipts, $1.84 billion, comes from the combined total of all livestock and livestock products (including sheep, wool, cattle, milk, eggs, hogs, and other products).
- Utah relies heavily on grazing allotments on public land (Bureau of Land Management) to support its range cattle industry.
- Nationally, Utah ranks 2nd in mink, 5th in sheep, and 11th in trout production.

## General

- The Great Salt Lake encompasses 1,060,000 acres; Utah is the top producer of brine shrimp.
- Utah produced $2.37 billion in cash receipts for crops, livestock, and produce in 2014.
- Utah encompasses 84,916 square miles; 65 percent of that land is owned by the federal government for national parks, military facilities, mining, public land and other entities.