

Agriculture Series Introduction

Utah's desert climate offers about only 5 percent of its total land as good to excellent for agricultural production. People in Utah settled on or near the land most suited for agricultural production. As a consequence, residential and commercial growth is centered within the 5 percent most suited for agricultural production.

On this basis, some have questioned whether it makes economic sense to develop over prime agricultural land, saying that preservation of those lands serves a higher and better use. Without this land, Utah would acquiesce an important source of self-sufficiency.

(State of Utah Department of Agriculture and Food)

Agricultural Land Definition:

Lands classified by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service as predominately Class I-VI soils, and other lands in different soil classes which are suitable for farm use, taking into consideration soil fertility, suitability for grazing and cropping, climatic conditions, existing and future availability of water for farm irrigation purposes, existing land use patterns, technological and energy inputs required, and accepted farming practices. Lands in other classes that are necessary to permit farm practices to be undertaken on adjacent or nearby lands shall be included as agricultural lands in any event. *(Deschutes County, Oregon)*



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

Keywords:

alfalfa, arable land, conservation, co-op, crops, development, farming, fences, fertilizers, grain, green belt, growing season, harvest, hay, irrigation, land, livestock, machinery, mills, meadows, open space, orchards, pastures, pesticides, potatoes, private lands, produce, public lands, rural, silos, soil, vegetables, vineyards, wheat