



# UTAH

## TOP 5 CROPS: UTAH

1. HAY
2. WHEAT
3. ONIONS
4. APPLES
5. BARLEY

### Crop Protection

Crop protection in Utah boosts the economy and secures the food supply, helping to provide thousands of jobs.

- In the Beehive State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 12 to 33 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Utah's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Utah's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$9 to \$164 million, depending upon the product.

### CropLife America: Helping to Feed a Hungry World

*America's crop protection industry is helping to feed a hungry world, decrease food costs, drive our economy, and protect our environment.*

Crop protection technologies help control the thousands of weed species, harmful insects, and numerous plant diseases that afflict crops and threaten both the abundance and the safety of our food supply.

- The crop protection industry is one of the most highly-regulated in the U.S. today, ensuring the safety of users and consumers, and reducing environmental impacts. As the nation and the world confront the threat of climate change, the industry stands at the forefront of sustainable agriculture, helping farmers do more with less through innovation, while protecting the soil and natural habitats of the land they farm.
- Crop protection products help American farmers improve agricultural productivity, generating robust crop yields that drive local economies and create jobs from the farm, to the distribution system, to the grocery stores and restaurants who sell these plentiful foods. The strong crop yields made possible by crop protection also help keep food costs down so American families can afford meals for their table.

In Utah, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$15 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

### Agriculture in Utah: Driving the State Economy

*Agriculture generates 15% of Utah's economy, employs more than 66,000 people, and ranks 37th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.*

**16,700  
FARMS**

16,700 farms cover 11,094,700 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$1.4  
BILLION**

Utah's agricultural products have an annual market value of \$1.4 billion, including 26% from crop production valued at \$368 million.

**RANKS  
15TH**

Utah's top crop, hay, accounts for 9.2% of the state's crop production, and 2.60 % of the nation's hay production with a value of \$114,710,000. It is nationally ranked 15th in hay production.

Without crop protection, the vital economic impact of Utah's agricultural industry would be virtually devastated.

# CROP PROTECTION IN THE BEEHIVE STATE

## Ensuring Utah's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

*The food supply nourishing Utah families—and exported around the globe—is fundamentally reliant upon crop protection technologies.*

Every spring and summer, plant diseases reproduce in countless numbers, infecting – and ultimately killing – Utah crops. Each year, **2.5 million weeds** prepare to emerge on every acre of Utah's cropland, competing with crops for water, nutrients, space, and sunlight. And across Utah, crop feeding insects reproduce in countless numbers, feeding on crops, reducing yields, making crops unmarketable, and in some cases killing the plant entirely.

These infestations threaten Utah's food supply, economy, environment, and health of our citizens. Crop protection products stem those threats, preventing crop loss and protecting the agricultural base.

## Safeguarding Utah's Environment and its Citizens

*Few industries play a greater role in driving sustainable agriculture than crop protection.*

Crop protection technologies enable Utah farmers to manage weeds without plowing or tilling the soil, reducing erosion and avoiding runoff into rivers and streams, while also reducing fuel consumption. Nationwide, this practice saves **337 million gallons of tractor fuel annually**, and prevents **356 billion pounds of disturbed soil** from eroding into rivers and streams.

*In Utah, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 11,300 acres, preventing 31 million pounds of soil erosion annually.*

Planting more acres of arable farmland decreases animal habitats, impacting biodiversity. Crop protection technologies enable Utah farmers to do more with less, reducing the need to convert additional acreage for crops.

Many invasive weeds and nuisance plants grow back when mowed or pulled. Far from being a simple annoyance, weeds kill native plants, suffocate lakes, and plug reservoir intakes, destroying the natural habitats of fish, birds, and mammals. Crop protection products are indispensable weapons, enabling Utah growers to successfully preserve several endangered species populations that had nearly vanished.

*Crop protection also guards the health of the food supply that sustains Utah families and the world.*

The ever-increasing reach of the global economy has allowed infectious agents like salmonella and E. coli to enter our food supply. The U.S. commitment to crop protection technologies serves as a first line of defense, attacking these threats and generating a safe, healthy, and robust food supply for Utah and the nation.

What would the Beehive State's food supply look like **WITHOUT** crop protection?

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## NO WHEAT

From sandwich bread to cereal, to pasta, wheat is a staple of the American diet, but without crop protection Utah's contribution would be reduced by up to 22%.

## NO ONIONS

Onions appear in almost every recipe in any cookbook – whether raw, sautéed or grilled – they bring a range of flavors to any meal. But the ruinous impact of insects and plant diseases would reduce those flavors by nearly one-quarter and cause Utah to lose up to \$7 million.

## NO APPLES

Apples are the state's fourth leading crop, filling children's lunchboxes and offering a healthy midday snack. Without crop protection, the ruinous impact of the insects and plant diseases would virtually wipe out Utah's entire apple crop.