



Welcome to Bear Lake County, Idaho

Climate

General:

Bear Lake County lies in the high, cool, semi-arid belt of the northern Rocky Mountains. Warm days and cool nights characterize pleasant, but short, summers. Winters in Bear Lake are generally cold with an abundance of snowfall.

Precipitation:

The majority of Bear Lake County's precipitation comes in the form of winter snow. Annual valley accumulation on the valley floor is about two feet. Run-off occurs in the spring and early summer providing abundant water into June. Following the spring run-off, irrigation water is in short supply. An average year's precipitation is approximately 14 inches.

Temperatures:

Temperature extremes have ranged from a high of 102°F to an unofficial low of -60°F (in the Thomas Fork Valley). Generally, there are about 14 days each year of +90°F and about 35 days of 0°F and lower. The mean annual air temperature and frost-free period decreases with the rise in elevation.

Growing Season:

The growing season varies with location in the county. Frosts can occur almost any day of the year, but on average, there are 115 days between the last hard frost in the spring to the first hard frost in the fall. There are approximately 80 frost-free days, generally from June 15 to September 3. The latest Spring killing frost was recorded on July 9 and the earliest Fall hard frost on July 21.

As one goes from North to South in the county, the growing season increases about one day for each five miles distance. This effect is most noticeable near Bear Lake.

Humidity:

Humidity is generally low, with little rainfall and high evaporation during the growing season. During the summer months, relative humidity begins on a typical day at 50 - 75% and drops to 25 - 35% by afternoon. Humidity during the winter months will average 65 - 75%.

Sources:

Idaho Agricultural Statistics
(Various years)

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