



A Look at *Oregon* Agriculture

Capital: Salem

Population: 4,013,845

Founded: February 14, 1859 (33rd)

State Bird: Western Meadowlark

State Tree: Douglas-fir

State Flower: Oregon Grape

Number of Counties: 36

Largest City: Portland - 619,360

Nickname: Beaver State

Number of Farms: 35,000

Average Farm Size: 471 acres

Total Farmland: 16.5 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Oregon's climate is ideal for the production of numerous crops.
- Oregon has seven distinct growing regions: the Oregon Coast, Willamette Valley, Southwest Oregon, High Desert, Columbia Basin, Northeast Oregon and Southeast Oregon.
- Oregon averages 31" of rainfall, however areas on the Oregon coast average over 90" per year while Eastern and Southern Oregon are much drier. Fourteen of the 36 counties average 15" of rainfall or less.
- Oregon summers are very dry. The state relies heavily on irrigation. Nearly 78% of water usage in Oregon goes for farm irrigation, compared to 40% nationally.
- Oregon has approximately 2,000 different types of soil.
- The depth of Oregon's topsoil averages about 10". This varies greatly from the coastal areas, forests, valleys, and Southern and Eastern regions of the state.

Crops & Livestock

- Crops account for 66% of the state's total sales.
- Cattle and calves, greenhouse and nursery, hay, milk, grass seed, wheat, potatoes, hazelnuts, pears, onions and wine grapes are the leading crops in Oregon.
- Oregon leads the nation in the production of blackberries, hazelnuts, loganberries, black raspberries, ryegrass seed, orchardgrass seed, crimson clover, fescue seed, Boysen and Youngberries, sugarbeets for seed, red clover seed, potted florist azaleas, Christmas trees, and storage onions.
- Oregon ranks #2 in the nation for the production of peppermint, sweet cherries and hops.
- Beef cattle and dairy products are the most important livestock commodities to Oregon and rank as first and fourth on the top commodity list.
- Groundfish, crab, shrimp, tuna, salmon, and oysters are important to the commercial fishing industry in Oregon.
- Livestock and poultry account for 34% of the state's total sales.
- Specialty livestock such as goats and llamas have increased significantly. One fourth of the llamas in the United States live in Oregon – making it the state with the most llamas overall.

General

- More than 225 different commodities can be found throughout Oregon.
- Oregon exports about 80% of its agricultural products, with nearly 40% leaving the country.