Oregons eight agricultural growing regions


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Quarterly Oregon Ag Briefing

The State Board of Agriculture advises the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) on policy issues, develops recommendations on key agricultural issues, and advocates for the states agriculture industry in general. The board is comprised of 10 members, nine of whom are appointed by the Governor. The tenth member is the chair of the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Both the Director of ODA and the Dean of the College of Agriculture at Oregon State University serve as ex-officio members. The board meets quarterly across the state to discuss relevant issues.

State law requires that seven of the appointed board members be actively engaged in the production of agricultural commodities and two members are to be representative of consumer interests in the state. Each member term is four years with the ability to be reappointed for a second four-year term.

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Every year, the Board of Agriculture holds meetings throughout the state to stay abreast of the opportunities and challenges facing Oregon agriculture. The board tours local agricultural operations and meets with local producers to hear their issues and concerns. Opportunity for public comment is provided at all board meetings, and the board often will develop a policy resolution or communicate with other agencies in response to an issue of concern that has been raised during these statewide meetings. Statewide site visits introduce the board to new industries such as cannabis production and processing, growing olives in wine country, or Tilapia farming in the Klamath Basin, and provide the opportunity to see food processing and packing operations, farm worker housing, and on-the-ground projects to protect water quality on agricultural lands.

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Report design
Liz Behees
Publications & Web Coordinator

10.9% of all Oregon exports are agricultural

$16 billion ag processing

Marion County #1 ag production

$144.5 million commercial fish landings

$351 million organic ag

$50 billion in sales

13.8% of Oregon jobs are related to agricultural industries

More than 100 farmers markets in the state

More than 200 recognized commodities

#1 commodity greenhouses & nursery products

#1 commodity organic ag

34,200 Oregon farms

39% of Oregon farmers are women

96.7% percent of farms are family-owned

$5 billion in sales

Oregon’s eight agricultural growing regions

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OREGON AGRICULTURE FACTS & FIGURES

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Oregon Dept of Agriculture
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Salem, OR 97301-2532
503-986-4554
Report: https://oda.direct/BoardReport
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Report design: Liz Beiles
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State of Oregon Agriculture
Report from the State Board of Agriculture

Oregon’s eight agricultural growing regions


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3 Oregon’s eight agricultural growing regions.
Oregon’s agriculture workforce is vital to Oregon’s economy. Finding and maintaining skilled, qualified agricultural labor is a growing challenge for Oregon’s farmers, ranchers, and food processing industry. To ensure worker availability, the Board of Agriculture supports changes to existing laws such as the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program, so all agricultural sectors have the opportunity to secure a qualified workforce.

Agricultural Land Use

Protecting agricultural working lands across Oregon is essential for current and future generations. The majority of Oregon’s agricultural lands will be changing hands over the next several decades as farmers choose to retire, and many of these land owners are making difficult succession plans. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program is designed to help ensure the future of agriculture in Oregon, and the OAHP Commission should continue to work with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Oregon Department of Agriculture and others to assist with succession planning and protection of threatened working lands for agriculture.

Conversion of high-value and highly productive farmland to non-agricultural uses is of great concern to the Board. For example, the board has requested Oregon’s Land Conservation and Development Commission to review administrative rules related to the siting of solar facilities on lands zoned for exclusive farm use. The board also developed Resolution #318 to recognize the importance of energy produced from renewable sources, but not at the expense of ongoing and future agricultural operations.

Market Access and Co-existence

Access to markets and promotion of Oregon agriculture, food, and beverages in local, domestic and international markets is vital for Oregon’s agriculture future. Marketing, fiscal structures, and investments in value-added agricultural products and services are critical for agriculture.

Some of the world’s most productive agricultural land can be found within Oregon’s diverse geography. While this diversity has many benefits there are also challenges. One of those challenges is co-existence between different agricultural and land uses. Board Resolution #301 addresses those challenges by supporting stewardship of natural resources; ongoing communication; choice of production technologies, practices and business structures; best management practices to minimize conflict, and state and federal programs that support a variety of production systems.
REGIONAL FACTS & ECONOMIC IMPACT BY COUNTY

Coastal
Total land area: 4.0 million acres
Number of farms: 1,692
Land in farms: 803,996 acres
Irrigated land: 22,698 acres
2012 market value of agricultural products sold: $206 million

Southern Oregon
Total land area: 6.1 million acres
Number of farms: 4,265
Land in farms: 624,721 acres
Irrigated land: 60,132 acres
2012 market value of agricultural products sold: $148 million

Willamette Valley
Total land area: 9.0 million acres
Number of farms: 11,811
Land in farms: 1.7 million acres
Irrigated land: 235,676 acres
2012 market value of agricultural products sold: $2.2 billion

Central Oregon
Total land area: 5.0 million acres
Number of farms: 2,308
Land in farms: 1.8 million acres
Irrigated land: 137,000 acres
2012 market value of agricultural products sold: $715 million

Columbia Plateau
Total land area: 6.6 million acres
Number of farms: 4,336
Land in farms: 5.2 million acres
Irrigated land: 287,000 acres
2012 market value of agricultural products sold: $113.1 billion

Northeast Oregon
Total land area: 9.4 million acres
Number of farms: 2,547
Land in farms: 1.9 million acres
Irrigated land: 230,000 acres
2012 market value of agricultural products sold: $248 million

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Oregon’s farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food processors are the heart of one of the state’s most important economic sectors. With a $50 billion annual economic impact, Oregon agriculture not only plays a major role in the state’s economy, but also in the everyday lives of Oregonians by providing food, beverages, agricultural products and services.

This report serves as an opportunity for the Board of Agriculture to highlight facts and figures about Oregon agriculture, economic impact by regions of the state, and share some of the key issues in Oregon agriculture.

The Board of Agriculture plays an important role for Oregon agriculture. Board members bring broad perspectives and expertise to discussions of key agricultural issues, provide connections to industry sectors, and serve as advocates for the industry in the state. This board is the state to become familiar with all aspects of Oregon agriculture and develops resolutions to clarify and define policy positions on issues related to agriculture in the state.

The water quantity and quality, a vibrant agricultural workforce, market access and co-existence, agricultural land use, and investments in value-added agriculture are priorities for the board.

We encourage you to contact board members to learn more about these important issues.

RESOLUTIONS
The State Board of Agriculture (BOA) creates and maintains policy statements, known as resolutions, on topics and issues facing the agricultural industry. The board recently completed a review of existing resolutions and established Resolution #301, a new resolution regarding the siting of energy transmission and generation facilities on agricultural land.

Addressing issues related to agricultural labor, food safety, land use, marketing, pesticide use, predator control, renewable energy and water remain a high priority for the board.

To download the full resolution packet, visit https://oda.direct/BOAresolutions

KEY ISSUES
Water for Agriculture
Water is the lifeblood of agriculture. Without an adequate supply of safe, clean water, Oregon agriculture would look very different in terms of what can be produced as well as the economic contribution. The Oregon Department of Agriculture, along with Oregon’s farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food processing industry, work to ensure water availability.

Agribusiness Workforce
Oregon’s agricultural workforce is vital to Oregon’s economy. Finding and maintaining skilled, qualified agricultural labor is a growing challenge nationally and for Oregon’s farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food processing industry. To ensure worker availability, the Board of Agriculture supports changes to existing laws such as the 20-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program, so all agricultural sectors have the opportunity to secure a qualified workforce.

Agri-cultural Land Use
Protecting agricultural working lands across Oregon is essential for current and future generations. The majority of Oregon’s agricultural lands will be changing hands over the next several decades as farmers near retirement, and many of these land owners are planning succession plans. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program is designed to help the future of agriculture in Oregon, and the DAHP Commission should continue to work with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Oregon Department of Agriculture and others to assist with succession planning and protection of threatened working lands for agriculture.

Conversion of high-value and highly productive farmland to non-agricultural uses is of great concern to the Board. For example, the board has requested Oregon’s Land Conservation and Development Commission to review all administrative rules related to the siting of solar facilities on lands zoned for exclusive farm use. The board also developed Resolution #318 to recognize the importance of energy produced from renewable sources, but not at the expense of ongoing and future agricultural operations.

Market Access and Co-existence
Access to markets and promotion of Oregon agriculture, food, and beverages in local, domestic and international markets is vital for Oregon’s agricultural future. The Oregon wine industry, fishery, and tobacco producers create or harvest much more than Oregonians can consume. Exploring opportunities to develop a food and beverage brand for Oregon, and creating and maintaining demand for Oregon food and agriculture in new as well as existing markets is essential to the economic viability of Oregon agriculture.

Some of the world’s most productive agricultural land can be found within Oregon’s diverse geography. While this diversity has many benefits there are also challenges. One of those challenges is co-existence between different agricultural and land uses. Board Resolution #301 addresses the need for guidelines by supporting stewardship of natural resources; ongoing communication; choice of production technologies, practices and business structures; best management practices to minimize conflict, and state and federal programs that support a variety of production systems.
Regional Facts & Economic Impact by County

Oregon’s agricultural workforce is vital to Oregon’s economy. Finding and maintaining skilled, qualified agricultural labor is a growing challenge nationally and for Oregon’s farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food processing industry. To ensure worker availability, the Board of Agriculture supports changes to existing laws such as the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program, so all agricultural sectors have the opportunity to secure a qualified workforce.

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The Board of Agriculture plays an important role for Oregon agriculture. Board members bring broad perspectives and expertise to discussions of key agricultural issues, provide connections to industry sectors, and serve as advocates for agriculture in the state. The state has become familiar with all aspects of Oregon agriculture and develops resolutions to clarify and define policy positions on issues related to agriculture in the state.

Water quantity and quality, a vibrant agricultural workforce, market access and co-existence, agricultural land use, and investments in value-added agriculture are priorities for the State Board of Agriculture and develops resolutions to address them. The Board of Agriculture collaborates with other agencies to monitor and evaluate conditions on agricultural lands that can affect water quality and quantity. Continued support of programs to identify and address the current and future needs for water in Oregon is critical for agriculture.

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