



OREGON STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE 2025 REPORT

Oregon's farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food processors are the heart of one of the state's most important economic sectors.

Throughout Oregon's economy 15.4% of sales, 20.3% of jobs and 12.9% of value-added is linked in some way to the agriculture, food and fiber industry. Food processing is one of the two top performing manufacturing industries in Oregon.

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

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

Executive Summary

Agriculture, fisheries, and food processing in Oregon are more than early-morning callings; they are the lifeblood of the state's prosperity. Generating a \$42 billion annual economic impact, these industries enrich Oregon's economy and enhance daily life by providing food, beverages, agricultural products, and services.

Oregon's broader economic strength depends on a robust agricultural sector. Agriculture, fisheries, food, and fiber support both rural and urban communities and provide more than half a million jobs statewide. Beyond feeding Oregonians, these industries significantly contribute to national and international markets, emphasizing Oregon's agricultural leadership.

The state's agricultural identity rests on its 35,547 farms, 96% of which are family-owned and operated. While small and mid-sized farms shape Oregon's agricultural character, larger farms—less than 10% of the total—generate roughly two-thirds of the state's agrarian economy. Together, they create a vibrant mosaic that balances tradition and innovation.

The Board has identified several key priorities for Oregon agriculture: water security and climate resilience, a reliable agricultural workforce, livestock and animal disease prevention, and sustainable long-term industry strategies. The Board also focuses on improving transportation infrastructure and making strategic economic investments. These efforts reflect the Board's commitment to fostering a resilient agricultural sector that benefits all Oregonians.

Board of Agriculture

The Governor appoints seven (7) members who are actively engaged in producing agricultural commodities; two (2) public members who are not actively engaged in producing agricultural commodities, and the tenth member is the Soil and Water Conservation Commission chair. The ODA director and dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University serve as ex-officio members of the board without the right to vote. The BOA advises ODA on policy issues, develop recommendations on key agricultural issues, and provide advocacy for the state's agriculture industry.



Chad Allen
Tillamook



Barbara Boyer
McMinnville



Bryan Harper
Junction City



Ty Kliewer
Klamath Falls



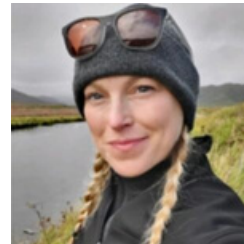
Miguel Lopez
Tillamook



Kirk Maag
Portland



Elin Miller
Roseburg



Ellie Norris
Roseburg



**Eric Orem
Heppner**



Josh Zielinski
Salem



**Lisa Charpilloz
Hanson**
Ex-Officio member,
ODA Director



Staci Simonich
Ex-Officio member, OSU Dean
of Agriculture & Director of
Ag Experiment Stations

Key Issues

AGRICULTURAL CENSUS DATA SHAPES OREGON'S FARMING FUTURE

The results of the 2022 USDA Agricultural Census (released in 2024) offer a detailed snapshot of Oregon agriculture, capturing trends in land use, farm size, and producer demographics. The census data also underscores the challenges of farmland access, an aging producer population, and the need to support new and beginning farmers and those from diverse backgrounds. Notably, Oregon ranks fourth in the nation of women farmers; 7% of agricultural producers in Oregon are Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and 9.8% are veterans.

Small and mid-sized farms are the backbone of Oregon's agricultural identity, driving local economies and sustaining rural communities. Farms under 500 acres make up 90% of all Oregon farms, contributing a third of the state's agricultural output and playing a vital role in local food systems.

Meanwhile, larger farms, representing just under 10% of Oregon's agricultural landscape, produce about two-thirds of the state's agricultural economy, enabling large-scale production to meet domestic and global food demands. This balance of small-scale innovation and large-scale efficiency defines Oregon agriculture as dynamic, resilient, and essential.

This information is more than just statistics—it provides valuable insights into how farmland is allocated, the types of crops grown, and how land is managed across different farm sizes. By tracking shifts in farming practices, the expansion or reduction of certain types of agriculture, and changes in land use patterns, this data serves as a roadmap for Oregon agriculture's future. These insights also help inform strategies to address key challenges, from succession planning to resource allocation, ensuring that agricultural operations can thrive for generations to come.

The 2022 USDA Agricultural Census provides vital insights into the state of Oregon agriculture, highlighting the importance of diverse and beginning farmers, small and mid-sized operations, and the need for support in addressing challenges like farmland access and an aging producer population. This data is crucial for shaping strategies that ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of Oregon's agricultural economy and communities.

AGRICULTURE LABOR AND COST OF BUSINESS IN OREGON

Labor shortages and rising operational costs remain defining challenges for Oregon's farmers and ranchers. The agricultural sector, which employs thousands across the state, particularly in rural areas, relies heavily on a skilled seasonal and migrant workforce. In 2024, rising wages, housing affordability, market fluctuations, and workforce availability placed additional stress on producers striving to remain competitive in a global market.

Thin margins and a competitive global market put pressure on agricultural businesses in Oregon to keep costs low, which can impact their ability to pay increasing wages for labor. This dynamic leads to challenges in retaining a skilled workforce, reducing investment in labor-intensive practices, and potentially compromising the long-term sustainability of operations.

Producers work tirelessly to adapt, adopt advanced technologies and efficient practices to counter rising costs while maintaining productivity. These critical efforts are not only essential to keeping farms operational but also to preserving jobs and supporting the economic stability of communities in Oregon.

Tackling workforce challenges is crucial to safeguarding Oregon's agricultural resilience and sustaining Oregon's economy. By investing in workforce solutions and value-added infrastructure we can ensure every link in the chain has the resources needed to thrive, sustaining both agricultural businesses and the communities they support.



AVIAN INFLUENZA AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Animal health is foundational to the success of Oregon agriculture. In 2024, the detection and spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to species beyond poultry; highlighted the importance of rapid response and preparedness. Oregon's poultry (meat and egg) sector plays a significant role in the state's food system. The spread of HPAI poses a threat to flock health and market stability, but proactive measures can mitigate broader impacts.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture, in partnership with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Oregon State University, have been leaders in implementing enhanced HPAI surveillance, biosecurity protocols, and public education campaigns. Initiatives such as milk-testing ensure the safety of cross-sector agricultural products, protect farm workers and producers, preserve markets, and maintain consumer confidence.

ODA's partnership with the agricultural industry has strengthened the relationship with the Oregon Health Authority under the One Health project. This response reinforces the resilience of Oregon's animal agriculture systems, the environment and underscores the role they play in protecting public health and supporting resiliency in our food systems.

Protecting animal health is essential to the stability of Oregon's food systems and communities across the state. Proactive and coordinated efforts ensure the industry and its food systems remain resilient and trusted.



ECONOMIC INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE

Strategic investments in Oregon agriculture in 2024 led to significant economic and community benefits, fostering growth across multiple sectors. These investments focused on modernizing infrastructure, enhancing sustainability, and strengthening local food systems.

The Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) initiative provides a transformative \$5.9 million investment to bolster local food systems for small and medium size operations in Oregon. These federal grant funds were awarded to applicants to enhance critical areas such as food processing, storage, and distribution, ensuring that locally produced food could reach more consumers efficiently and sustainably. Additionally, a nearly \$2 million annual allocation in USDA Specialty Crop Block Grants funds projects that enhance the competitiveness of Oregon-grown specialty crops, support innovation in production, marketing, and distribution, strengthens local economies and ensures continued growth in this high-value sector. Reauthorization of the U.S. Farm Bill is essential to support these important specialty crop programs.

State funded grants such as farm to school and meat processing infrastructure create new opportunities for producers and processors to sell more products to schools and build our local food systems, while keeping jobs and economic value within Oregon communities.

Ongoing investments in processing, equipment, and infrastructure to support Oregon's food and agriculture products, including seafood will help build resilience, strengthen local food systems, and ensure Oregon food and agriculture remains competitive in local, regional, domestic, and international markets.



NATURAL DISASTERS AND PEST PRESSURES

Oregon has confronted a series of natural disasters in recent years—wildfires, ice storms, and extreme heat events. The 2024 wildfire season was the worst in the state’s history, testing the resilience of agricultural communities. Crop and livestock losses and infrastructure damage imposed long-term hardships, particularly in rural areas where agriculture anchors local economies. Federal and state recovery programs help producers replant, rebuild, and sustain their operations.

Looking ahead, Oregon needs proactive strategies to reduce wildfire risk and strengthen emergency response systems. These approaches protect agricultural operations, limit crop losses, and help rural communities recover more effectively. Collaboration among state natural resource agencies is crucial for maximizing resources and building public trust.

At the same time, invasive species continue to threaten Oregon’s working lands and natural resources, especially when landscapes are recovering from disasters. Roughly ten non-native insect pest species establish themselves in the state each year, straining state and industry resources. These invasive species can disrupt the eco-system, restrict market access, and endanger native species, and cost the U.S. more than \$120 billion annually. Stable detection and response resources are essential to safeguard the state’s agriculture and natural resources for future generations.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MARKET ACCESS

Reliable transportation infrastructure underpins Oregon’s agricultural success by ensuring products reach markets efficiently and affordably. The reopening of Terminal 6 (T6) at the Port of Portland in 2024 was a key milestone for agricultural exporters. Ensuring a navigable river system to and from Terminal 6 is crucial for moving agricultural products at competitive costs.

These assets grant Oregon producers global market access, lower shipping expenses, and boost export reliability, reinforcing the state’s competitive edge. Despite such progress, rural roads and other infrastructure still require improvements. These gaps raise costs, delay deliveries, and hamper farmers’ ability to compete in domestic and international markets.

Additionally, federal-level discussions about breaching dams in the Snake-Columbia River system pose a threat to barge transportation. Losing this cost-effective option would significantly increase production expenses for many growers. Ongoing support for rural transportation networks and port infrastructure is vital to sustaining Oregon’s producers and the local economies they drive.



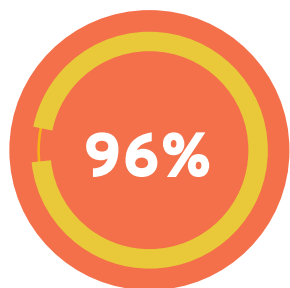
WATER AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Oregon’s agricultural sector is no stranger to challenges. Climate variability and events in 2024 underscored the critical need for sustainable water management. Persistent drought, diminished snowpack, and localized nitrate contamination posed significant challenges for producers in irrigation-dependent areas across the state. These issues ripple beyond farmgate, impacting rural communities where agriculture serves as the economic backbone.

To address these challenges, state and federal partnerships supported modern irrigation infrastructure, watershed restoration, water availability, and nitrate reduction programs. These efforts not only provided immediate relief but also strengthened long-term water security. By investing in efficiency and conservation, Oregon agriculture is building resilience against changing conditions while ensuring that farming communities remain vibrant and productive.

Prioritization of water security, availability, and climate resilience are essential for sustaining Oregon agriculture, eco-systems and communities across the state. Federal, state and private investments prepare producers for the challenges of tomorrow and a resilient Oregon agricultural sector.

Oregon Agriculture Facts & Figures



of Oregon farms are family-owned



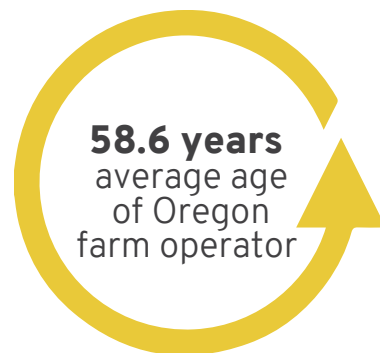
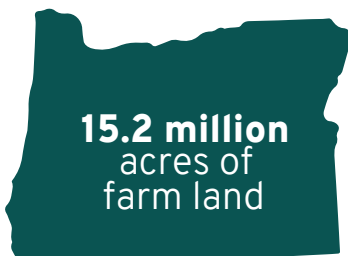
44% of Oregon producers are women

Ranked 4th in the U.S.



in agricultural exports to other countries

35,547
Oregon farms²



13% of Oregon's gross product is food & agriculture

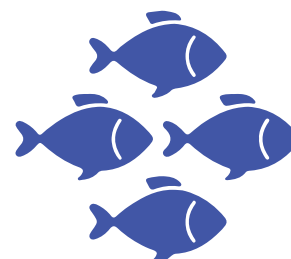
32% of producers are new & beginning (10 years or less)



\$30 billion in wages

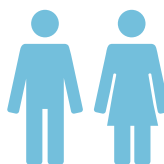
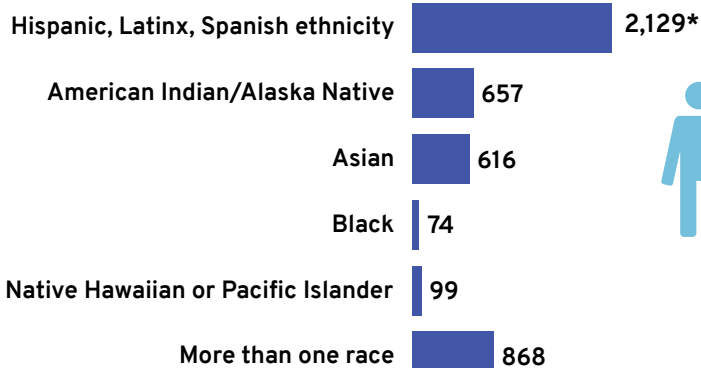


\$6.8 billion in agricultural production



\$130.8 million commercial fish landings

4,443 BIPOC producers³



618,341 Oregon jobs are related to food and agriculture

6,691 Oregon producers are current or past service members



³ BIPOC = Black, Indigenous, and people of color. The Census of Agriculture asked separate questions for ethnicity and race.
*There are 2,284 total producers who are Hispanic, Latinx, Spanish origin and 2,129 were not already counted in another race category.

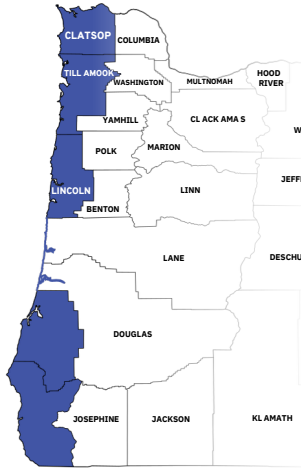
¹ The term "producer" designates a person who is involved in making decisions for the farm operation. The census included up to four producers per farm.

² A farm is defined as any place from which \$1,000 of agricultural products were produced and sold or normally would have been sold.

Regional Facts & Economic Impact by County

COASTAL

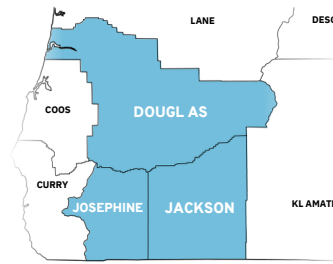
Total land area:
4.1 million acres



Number of farms:
1,463
Land in farms:
256,754 acres
Irrigated land:
19,458 acres
2022 market value of agricultural products sold:
\$103 million

SOUTHERN OREGON

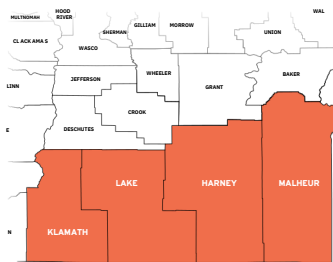
Total land area:
6.1 million acres



Number of farms:
4,812
Land in farms:
598,343 acres
Irrigated land:
68,671 acres
2022 market value of agricultural products sold:
\$233 million

SOUTHEAST OREGON

Total land area:
22.2 million acres



Number of farms:
2,519
Land in farms:
3.89 million acres
Irrigated land:
513,060 acres
2022 market value of agricultural products sold:
\$955 million

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

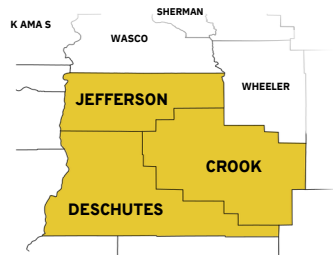
Total land area:
9 million acres



Number of farms:
18,495
Land in farms:
1.56 million acres
Irrigated land:
290,876 acres
2022 market value of agricultural products sold:
\$3.1 billion

CENTRAL OREGON

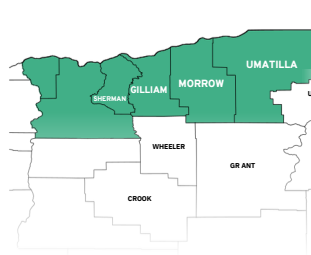
Total land area:
5 million acres



Number of farms:
2,529
Land in farms:
1.5 million acres
Irrigated land:
125,380 acres
2022 market value of agricultural products sold:
\$156 million

COLUMBIA PLATEAU

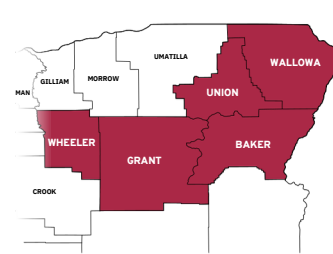
Total land area:
6.6 million acres



Number of farms:
3,240
Land in farms:
4.5 million acres
Irrigated land:
298,308 acres
2022 market value of agricultural products sold:
\$1.76 billion

NORTHEAST OREGON

Total land area:
9.3 million acres



Number of farms:
2,489
Land in farms:
2.93 million acres
Irrigated land:
219,013 acres
2022 market value of agricultural products sold:
\$258 million

Total land area source: Oregon Secretary of State, 2014
All other data source: USDA NASS, 2022

Tribal Nations in Oregon

Nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon contribute invaluable heritage and expertise to the state’s agriculture and natural resources. The State Board of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Agriculture work closely with tribal representatives to ensure their perspectives influence policies and programs, including advisory groups and commissions. These collaborations focus on agricultural water quality, invasive species control, pesticide stewardship, and farm-to-school funding, creating new business opportunities for tribal-owned food ventures. Together, these efforts strengthen natural resource protection and reinforce a resilient, inclusive agricultural sector that serves all Oregonians.

About Resolutions

The State Board of Agriculture adopts resolutions to make policy statements on topics and issues that face the agriculture industry.

Resolutions may be created at the request of individual board members of the Board or at the request of an outside party to address a specific issue. The public may provide public comment on resolutions under consideration by the Board.

As part of an annual review of active resolutions, in 2024, board members reviewed eight active resolutions including 024 – Pesticide Use for Pest Control, 274 – Collaboration of the Board of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, 298 – Coexistence of wolves and livestock on Oregon's rural landscape, 314 – Permitted Uses on Lands Zoned Exclusive Farm Use and on High-Value Farmland, and 315 – Working Lands Conservation Easements. to re-confirm, update, or archive those resolutions. In 2024, the Board adopted a new resolution on agricultural overtime.

To download a packet of all active resolutions, visit: <https://oda.direct/BOAResolutions>

Quarterly Oregon Ag Briefing



The State Board of Agriculture plans to begin providing a quarterly briefing on issues the board is working on and discussing, as well as input they receive from stakeholders. The briefing will also include highlights and photos from Board of Agriculture meetings.

Receive the quarterly report via email by signing up online at: <https://oda.fyi/BOASubscribe>

Why this Report?

ORS 561.378 STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE REPORT

The State Board of Agriculture shall report as provided in ORS 192.230 to 192.250 on a biennial basis to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly regarding the status of the agriculture industry in this state.

March 2025

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Report <https://oda.direct/BoardReport>
Resolutions <https://oda.direct/BOAResolutions>
Webpage <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>