

A Look at Oregon Agriculture



Capital: Salem

Population: 3,825,657

Founded: February 14, 1859 (33rd)

State Bird: Western Meadowlark

State Tree: Douglas-fir

State Flower: Oregon Grape

Number of Counties: 36

Largest City: Portland - 582,130

Nickname: Beaver State

Number of Farms: 38,600

Average Farm Size: 425 acres

Total Farmland: 16.4 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Oregon's climate is ideal for the production of numerous crops.
- Oregon has three distinct growing areas, the Oregon coast, the Willamette Valley, and Eastern and Southern 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 69% of the state's total sales.
- Greenhouse & nursery, hay, grass seed, wheat, potatoes, Christmas trees, storage onions, and pears are the leading crops in Oregon.
- Oregon leads the nations 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, Dungeness crab and storage onions.
- Oregon ranks #2 in the nation for the production of peppermint, snap beans for processing, hops, spearmint and red raspberries.
- Beef cattle and dairy products are the most important livestock commodities to Oregon and rank as fourth and fifth 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 31% of the state's total sales.
- Specialty livestock such as goats and llamas have increased significantly.

General

- More than 220 different commodities can be found throughout Oregon.
- Oregon exports about 80% of its agricultural products, with nearly 1/3 going out of the country.