

## 2007 Profile of Union County Agriculture

Union County includes 1,300,480 acres of land within its boundaries. Approx. 49.7% of the land base is publicly-owned and 50.3% privately-owned. The Grande Ronde Valley lies at the center of the county and stretches approx. 35 miles north-south and 15 miles east-west.

According to the 2002 USDA Census of Agriculture (most recent), there were 993 farms in Union Co. with an average of 482 acres per farm. Land in farms totaled 478,411 acres with 64,901 acres irrigated (41%) and 104,913 acres of harvested cropland.

Overall, soils found in Union County are complex with textures ranging from sandy loam to clay soils and pH levels ranging from acidic to alkaline. Producers utilize specialized crop and livestock production methods to meet the challenges of soil/climate variability and to promote economic and environmental sustainability. Oregon agricultural economics and crop production statistics available at the Oregon Agriculture Information Network website – <http://oregonstate.edu/oain>. Detailed Oregon climate/weather information also available at <http://www.ocs.oregonstate.edu>

**Population of Union County:** approximately 25,000

**Principle Industries:** Agriculture, Timber, Government, Education, and Manufacturing

**Agriculture:**                      **Estimated Farm Gate Sales:**                      **\$73,045,000** (data on reverse side)

(% of Total Est. Farm Gate Sales: Crops = 71%; Livestock = 23%; Small Woodlots = 6%)

**Small Grains:**                      32,250 acres (30,000 acres wheat; 2,000 acres barley; 250 acres oats)

**Hay:**                                      38,200 acres (22,000 acres alfalfa; 16,000 acres other hay)

**Turf Grass Seed:**                      10,400 acres (59% Kentucky bluegrass; 40% fine fescues; 1% other)

**Peppermint for oil:** 8,200 acres                                      **Sweet Cherries:** 350 acres

**Other Field Crops:** 6,500 acres (potatoes, sugar beets, vegetable seed, dry field beans, other)

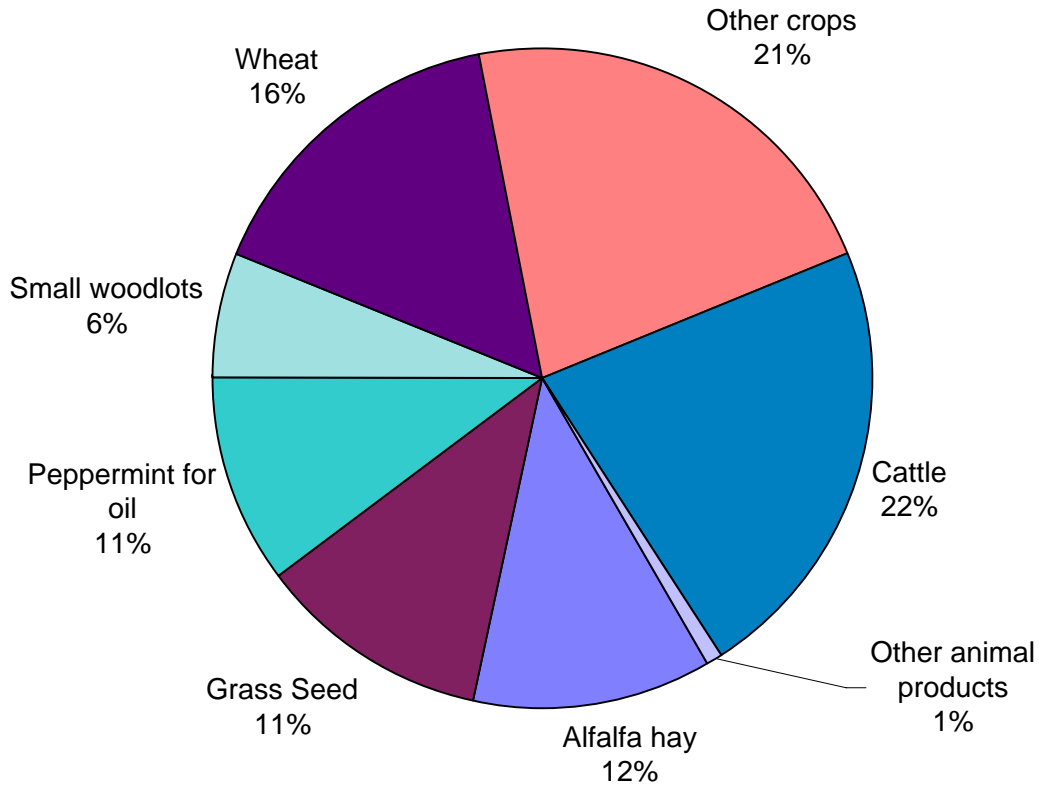
**Cattle:** 15,500 head (beef cows)                                      **Horses/Mules:** 3,500 head

**Sheep:** 1,200 head (ewes)                                      **Other Livestock:** 1,000 head

**ELEVATION AND CLIMATE DESCRIPTION:** (Oregon Climate Service – 30 year average)

Location	Elevation (ft)	Avg. Annual Precipitation (in)	Avg. Max Temp (F)	Avg. Min Temp (F)	Median Frost Free Dates (32 F)	
					Spring	Fall
Cove	3120	22.5	59.6	33.9	--	--
Elgin	2660	23.7	62.4	33.3	June 5	Sept. 3
La Grande	2760	17.2	60.9	36.6	May 16	Sept. 22
Union	2770	13.8	59.7	35.7	May 21	Sept. 17

## AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY SALES UNION COUNTY, 2007p



**All Crops 77%**  
**All Livestock 23%**

### 2007p Sales By Commodity \$ 000

Alfalfa hay	8,422
Grass Seed	8,344
Peppermint for oil	7,675
Small woodlots	4,440
Wheat	11,475
Other crops	16,127

**ALL CROPS 56,483**

Cattle	15,999
Other animal products	563

**ALL LIVESTOCK 16,562**

**ALL CROPS & LIVESTOCK 73,045**

### Agricultural Sales by Year \$ 000

Year	Crops	Livestock	Total
2005r	35,079	13,652	48,731
2006r	41,904	16,490	58,394
2007p	56,483	16,562	73,045

*r - revised, p - preliminary*

Source: Extension Economic Information Office

Oregon State University

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