

## 2008 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 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture, there were 880 farms in Union Co. with an average of 554 acres per farm, which represents an 11% decrease in # of farms and a 15% increase in farm size compared to the 2002 Ag Census. Overall, land in farms totaled 487,584 acres categorized as 29% cropland, 16% woodland, 53% pasture, and 2% other land use. Irrigated land totaled 63,266 acres (or 13% of total land in farms).

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 are available at the Oregon Agriculture Information Network website – <http://oain.oregonstate.edu> 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:**                      **\$80,259,000** (data on reverse side)

(% of Total Est. Farm Gate Sales: Crops = 76%; Livestock = 20%; Small Woodlots = 4%)

**Small Grains:**                      38,750 acres (36,000 acres wheat; 2,500 acres barley; 250 acres oats)

**Hay:**                                      38,000 acres (23,000 acres alfalfa; 15,000 acres other hay)

**Turf Grass Seed:**                      10,064 acres (62% Kentucky bluegrass; 37% fine fescues; 1% other)

**Peppermint for oil:** 6,700 acres                                      **Sweet Cherries:** 350 acres

**Other Field Crops:** 6,500 acres (includes certified seed & commercial potatoes; sugarbeet; specialty seed crops such as canola, sunflower, vegetable seed, field beans/peas; & other crops)

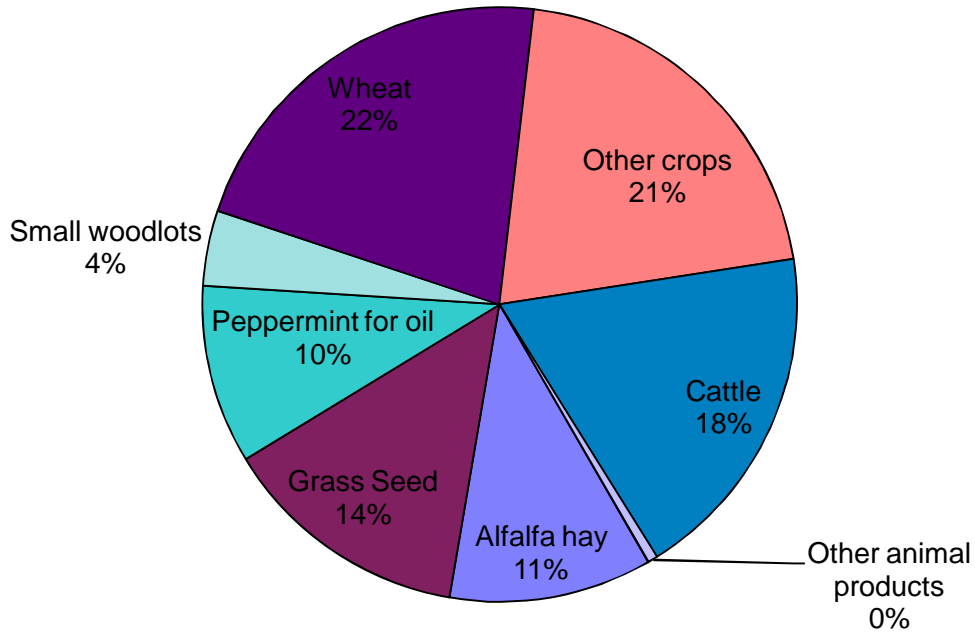
**Cattle:** 14,000 head (beef cows)                                      **Horses/Mules:** 3,000 head

**Sheep:** 1,700 head (ewes)                                      **Other Livestock:** 1,000 head

**CLIMATE DESCRIPTION:** (Oregon Climate Service – 30 year average from 1971 to 2000\*).

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, 2008p



**All Crops 80%**  
**All Livestock 20%**

### 2008p Sales By Commodity \$ 000

Alfalfa hay	8,849
Grass Seed	10,915
Peppermint for oil	7,789
Small woodlots	3,300
Wheat	17,442
Other crops	16,626

**ALL CROPS 64,921**

Cattle	14,900
Other animal products	438

**ALL LIVESTOCK 15,338**

**ALL CROPS & LIVESTOCK 80,259**

### Agricultural Sales by Year \$ 000

Year	Crops	Livestock	Total
2006r	41,904	16,490	58,394
2007r	58,109	16,562	74,671
2008p	64,921	15,338	80,259

*r - revised, p - preliminary*

Source: Extension Economic Information Office

Oregon State University

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