

NE Oregon Potato Production Fact Sheet—2007

The geographic location and climate of Northeastern Oregon (Union, Baker, Wallowa Co.) offers unique conditions for the 1) production of high quality certified seed and commercial processing potatoes and 2) isolation from many problematic insect and disease pests of economic concern.

For over 30 years, certified seed potatoes have been grown primarily in Union Co. and commercial processing potatoes have dominated production in Baker Co. Certified seed potato production in Wallowa Co. is protected by a potato disease control area, however, seed production has been inactive since the late 1980s. Organic fresh market potatoes are produced to a limited extent in Union and Wallowa Co. In 2007, all potato production in the region was valued at over \$17 million (Table 1).

Overall, potatoes rank seventh among Oregon’s top 40 commodities with an approximate farm gate value of \$128 million (2006, Oregon Agriculture Statistics Service). Baker County ranks fourth among Oregon counties for commercial potato production (Figure 1) in 2007. Union County produced 46% of all certified seed potatoes grown in Oregon in 2007 (Figure 2) and has become Oregon’s largest seed production area. The Grande Ronde Valley of Union Co. has produced approximately 50% of all certified seed potatoes grown in the state since 2003 (Figure 3).

Table 1. 2007 Farm Gate Value Estimate for All Potatoes—NE OR.

	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Value</u>
Certified Seed	1081	\$5,054,000
Commercial	4200	\$12,700,000
Total	5281	\$17,754,000

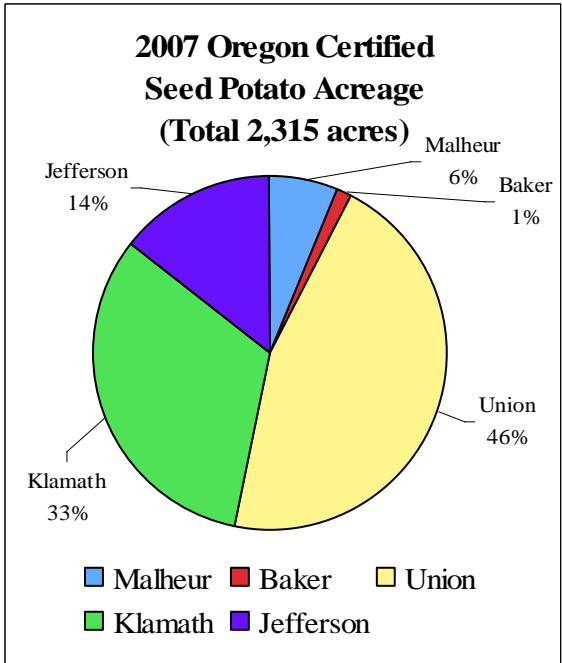
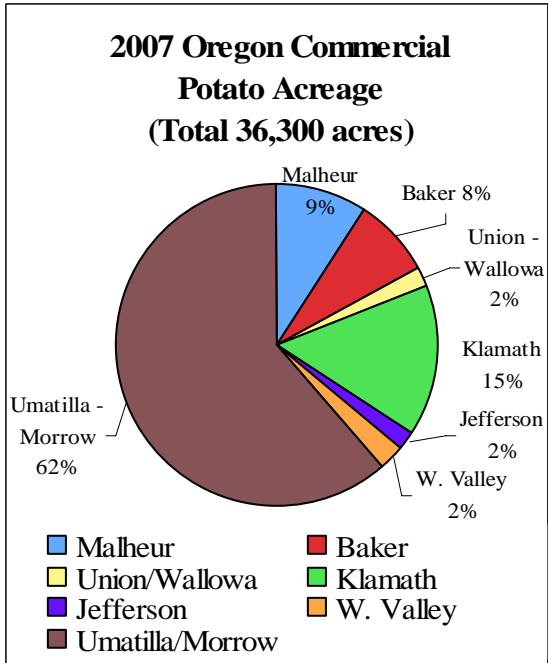


Figure 3. Historical Acreage Comparison of NE Oregon and Statewide Certified Seed Potato Production (1977 to 2007).

