



May 2004  
Volume 2, Issue 1

## Inside this Brief

- **Governing Authorities**
- **Current Law**
- **Figures and Statistics**
- **Staff and Agency Contacts**

Legislative Committee Services  
State Capitol Building  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
(503) 986-1813

Background Brief on...

# Agriculture

*Prepared by: Ray Kelly*

## Governing Authorities

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 561.130 created the State Board of Agriculture, establishing terms of office and makeup of the board. The board consists of ten members, with nine being appointed by the Governor and the tenth being chair of Oregon's Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Board members serve four-year terms and a maximum of two terms.

ORS 561.010 created the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The department is served by the Director of Agriculture, who is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The director serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

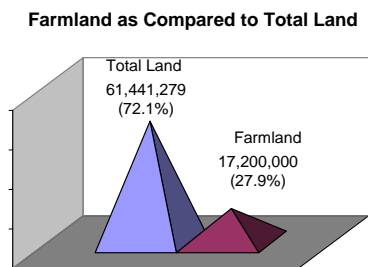
## Current Law

The State Board of Agriculture fosters close contact between the Oregon Department of Agriculture, producers, consumer interests and the practical agricultural problems of the state. The ten-member board represents consumers, commodity groups and other sectors of Oregon's agricultural industry. The board reviews policy and advises the Department of Agriculture on its programs to ensure food safety, protect natural resources, and promote economic development.

State law requires seven of the appointed board members to be farmers or ranchers representing different segments of agriculture; two board members must represent consumers. This group of individuals serves to keep the director in close touch with the day-to-day issues of producers and consumers. The board meets four times a year and works with the department director to develop policies and recommend adoption of rules. The director serves as an ex-officio member of the board without the right to vote.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture consists of nine divisions: Agricultural Development and Marketing, Natural Resources, Commodity Inspection, Animal Health and Identification, Measurement Standards, Laboratory Services, Food Safety, Pesticide, and Plant.

**Figures and Statistics:** Currently, there are more than 220 different commodities produced throughout the state. The average farm size is 420 acres, with value of \$1,100 per acre.

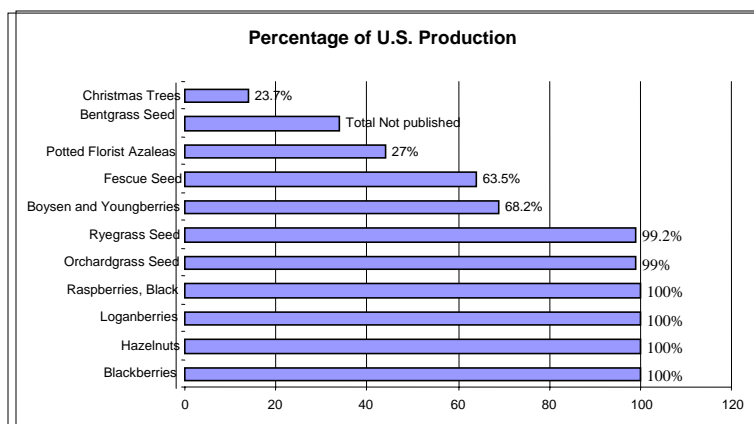


There are approximately 41,000 farms in Oregon, covering 17,200,000 acres out of a total land area of 61,441,279 acres (96,002 sq. miles).

### Value of Oregon agriculture: Crop production, 2002

Crop	Acres	Production Unit	Value (\$)
<b>Field crops</b>			
Barley	74,000	3,700,000 bu	8,880,000
Corn, grain	27,000	3,105,000 bu	9,005,000
Corn, silage	33,000	693,000 tons	16,632,000
Hay, alfalfa	475,000	2,043,000 tons	218,601,000
Hay, all other	620,000	1,364,000 tons	139,128,000
Hops	5,577	9,438,000 tons	20,103,000
Oats	35,000	3,080,000 bu	7,546,000
Peppermint	24,000	2,112,000 lbs	27,456,000
Potatoes	49,800	24,936,000 cwt	134,908,000
Sugarbeets	10,900	296,000 tons	11,186,000
Wheat, all	850,000	34,010,000 bu	135,565,000
<b>Seed crops</b>			
Alfalfa seed	4,650	3,362,000 lbs	3,681,000
Bentgrass seed	8,390	4,731,000 lbs	11,317,000
Bluegrass seed	23,270	19,207,000 lbs	20,067,000
Fescue seed	182,740	270,421,000 lbs	95,130,000
Ryegrass seed			
Annual	119,470	224,169,000 lbs	36,056,000
Perennial	151,200	211,622,000 lbs	88,993,000
<b>Fruits and nuts</b>			
Apples	8,700	75,000 tons	17,609,000
Blackberries	6,900	49,500,000 lbs	21,871,000
Blueberries	2,800	27,500,000 lbs	20,075,000
Cherries, sweet	12,000	29,000 tons	27,022,000
Cranberries	2,500	400,000 bbls	10,543,000
Grapes for wine	9,400	22,000 tons	32,340,000
Hazelnuts	27,800	18,000 tons	18,009,000
Peaches	950	3,700 tons	3,028,000
Pears, Bartlett	4,600	58,000 tons	19,884,000
Pears, other	12,400	140,000 tons	48,120,000
Prunes & plums	1,800	7,200 tons	1,808,000
Raspberries, red	2,300	10,300,000 lbs	7,492,000
Strawberries	3,000	33,800,000 lbs	16,613,000
<b>Vegetables</b>			
Beans, snap (proc.)	18,700	116,250 tons	20,951,000
Corn, sweet (all)	37,400	300,980 tons	28,782,000
Onions	17,400	10,662,000 cwt	80,974,000
Peas, green	20,200	28,910 tons	5,076,000

As of May 2002, Oregon has eleven commodities ranked number one as a percentage of total U.S. agricultural output. Totals shown as percentage of total U.S. output:



### Top Ten (10) County gross farm and ranch sales, 2002

Rank	County	Value (\$)
1	Marion	\$447,854,000
2	Clackamas	\$324,492,000
3	Washington	\$214,270,000
4	Umatilla	\$210,247,000
5	Yamhill	\$206,987,000
6	Linn	\$189,909,000
7	Malheur	\$161,131,000
8	Morrow	\$157,725,000
9	Klamath	\$147,494,000
10	Polk	\$108,188,000

### Value of Oregon agricultural exports, 2001

Commodity	Value (\$)
Vegetables & preparations	\$161,600,000
Fruits & preparations	\$101,100,000
Wheat & products	\$95,800,000
Seeds	\$55,700,000
Nursery products	\$24,900,000
Tree nuts	\$18,500,000
Hides & skins	\$17,800,000
Christmas trees	\$16,600,000
Dairy products	\$15,200,000
Feed & fodders	\$13,800,000
Live animals & red meat	\$8,900,000
Feeds & grains	\$7,700,000
Poultry	\$2,400,000

### Oregon commercial fish landings, 2002

Type of fishery	Pounds	Value (\$)
Crab	12,440,905	\$20,653,885
Groundfish	21,108,635	\$14,229,350
Salmon	6,116,047	\$6,930,579
Shrimp	41,540,627	\$11,339,808
Whiting	71,219,860	\$3,219,873
Tuna	4,353,375	\$2,939,026
Other	53,347,141	\$5,837,071
Total	210,126,590	\$65,149,592

### Staff and Agency Contacts

Katy Coba     Director  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
503 986-4552

Chuck Craig     Deputy Director  
503 986-4556

Web Page: <http://www.oda.state.or.us>

Rick Gustafson, Chair     State Board of Agriculture  
503-986-4550

Ray Kelly     Legislative Committee Services  
503-986-1675