

# Crossroads Resource Center

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## ***Tools for Community Self-determination***

### **Northeast Oregon Local Farm & Food Economy**

*Highlights of a data compilation*  
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for  
**Oregon Rural Action**

December 30, 2011

*Covers Baker, Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties in Oregon*

#### **Northeast Oregon (Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2009)**

121,356 residents receive \$3.7 billion of income annually. Although income from manufacturing has declined over the past ten years, personal income for the region's residents still increased 123% from 1969 – 2009, after dollars were adjusted for inflation. Population increase [see below] made a substantial contribution to this rise. The largest source of personal income is transfer payments (from government programs such as pensions), which account for \$914 million (25%) of personal income [see below]. Capital income (from interest, rent or dividends) brings in \$685 million of personal income. Government jobs rank third, with \$665 million. Health care jobs are next, with \$263 million. Manufacturing jobs rank fifth, producing \$212 million of personal income, and retail jobs bring in \$179 million. Note that income from public sources makes up 43% of all personal income in the region.

Income earned from transfer payments includes \$341 million of retirement and disability insurance benefits, \$344 million of medical benefits, \$90 million of income maintenance benefits, \$56 million of unemployment insurance, and \$31 million of veteran's benefits.

Government income includes \$134 million of income earned by federal workers, \$176 million for state government workers, and \$337 million earned by local government staff. Military personnel earn \$18 million of personal income.

Although the region's population has increased 42% since 1969, there has been only limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

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<sup>1</sup> Nick Wojciak contributed substantial research to this report.

**Issues affecting low-income residents of Northeast Oregon:**

Over 40,000 residents (35%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines. At this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. These lower-income residents spend \$81 million each year buying food, including \$15 million of SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and additional WIC coupons. The region's 3,752 farmers receive an annual combined total of \$40 million in subsidies (23-year average, 1987-2009), mostly to raise crops such as wheat or corn that are sold as commodities, not to feed Northeast Oregon residents. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, Bureau of Labor Statistics, & Bureau of Economic Analysis.*

9% percent of the region's households (over 8,700 residents) earn less than \$10,000 per year. *Source: Federal Census American Community Survey 2005-2009.*

20% of Oregon adults aged 18-64 carry no health insurance. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

**Food-related health conditions:**

26% of Oregon residents reported in 2009 that they eat five or more servings of fruit or vegetables each day. 74% do not. This is a key indicator of health, since proper fruit and vegetable consumption has been connected to better health outcomes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

56% of Oregon adults reported in 2009 they have at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five or more days per week, or vigorous physical activity for 20 or more minutes three or more days per week. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

7% of Oregon residents have been diagnosed with diabetes as of 2010. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.* Medical costs for treating diabetes and related conditions in the Northeast Oregon region are estimated at \$70 million per year. Costs for the state of Oregon as a whole total \$2.2 billion. *Source: American Diabetes Association cost calculator.*

61% of Oregon residents are overweight (33%) or obese (28%). *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

**The region's farms (Agricultural Census, 2007)**

Agricultural Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009

*The Census of Agriculture defines a "farm" as "an operation that produces, or would normally produce and sell, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products per year."*

*Land:*

- 3,752 farms. This is 10% of Oregon farms.
- Northeast Oregon had 2% less farms in 2007 than in 2002.
- 662 (18%) of these are 1,000 acres or more in size.
- 1,629 (44%) farms are less than 50 acres.
- Average farm size is 846 acres, nearly double the state average of 425 acres.
- The region has 3.2 million acres of land in farms.
- This amounts to 19% of the state's farmland.
- Northeast Oregon holds 657,000 acres of harvested cropland.
- 371,000 of these acres are irrigated.

- Average value of land and buildings per farm was \$1 million. This was more than the 2007 state average of \$804,000.

*Sales:*

*With the exception of foods sold directly to consumers (see below), farmers typically sell commodities to wholesalers, brokers or manufacturers that require further processing or handling to become consumer items. The word “commodities” is used in this report to mean the crops and livestock sold by farmers through these wholesale channels. The term “products” encompasses commodity sales, direct sales, and any other sales.*

- The region’s farmers sold \$473 million of crops and livestock in 2007.
- Farm product sales increased by 47% from 2002 to 2007.
- \$319 million of crops were sold.
- \$154 million of livestock and products were sold.
- 2,231 (59%) of the region’s farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007.
- Total sales from these small farms were \$4.7 million, 1% of the region’s farm product sales.
- 645 (17%) of the region’s farms sold more than \$100,000 of products.
- Total sales from these larger farms were \$438 million, 93% of the region’s farm product sales.
- 58% of the region’s farms (2,161 of 3,752) reported net losses in 2007. This is less than the Oregon average of 65%.
- 1,163 (31%) of Northeast Oregon’s farmers collected a combined total of \$26 million of federal subsidies in 2007.

**Top farm products of Northeast Oregon (2007).** *Note: \*\* denotes sales data has been suppressed.*

<b>Products</b>	<b>\$ millions</b>
Cattle and calves	141
Wheat	112
Forage crops (hay, etc.)	80
Vegetables	**73

*Production Expenses:*

- Hired farm labor was the largest single expense for Northeast Oregon farmers in 2007, totaling \$53 million (13%).
- Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners ranked as the second most important expense, at \$43 million (10%).
- Depreciation expenses totaled \$37 million (9%).
- Livestock and poultry purchases cost Northeast Oregon farmers at least \$37 million (9%). Note that data for livestock and poultry purchases in Baker County were suppressed by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality, so this total is incomplete.
- Land and building rental cost \$36 million (9%).
- Supplies, repairs, and maintenance totaled \$35 million (8%).
- Feed purchases cost farmers \$33 million (8%).

*Cattle & Dairy:*

- 1,774 farms hold an inventory of 228,000 cattle.
- 1,620 cattle were sold by farmers in 2007 for total sales of \$141 million.
- 1,481 farms raise beef cows.
- 45 farms raise milk cows.
- 14 farms produced corn for silage.
- 1,461 farms produced 566,000 tons of forage crops (hay, etc.) on 177,000 acres.
- 886 farms sold \$80 million of forage.

*Other Livestock & Animal Products:*

- 94 farms hold an inventory of 2,150 hogs and pigs.
- 134 farms sold 4,620 hogs and pigs in 2007.
- 261 farms hold an inventory of 15,720 sheep and lambs.
- 302 farms sold at least \$562,000 worth of sheep, goats, and lambs in 2007. Note that data for sales of sheep, goats, and lambs in Umatilla and Wallowa counties were suppressed by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality, so this total is incomplete.
- 310 farms hold an inventory of 5,861 laying hens.
- 16 farms raise broiler chickens.
- 7 farms engage in aquaculture.
- 285 farms raise horses and ponies.

*Grains, Oil Seeds, & Edible Beans:*

- 494 farms produced \$128 million of grains, oil seeds, and edible beans.
- 32 farms produced 2.1 million bushels of corn on 9,693 acres, worth at least \$8.2 million. Note that data for sales of corn in Baker County were suppressed by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality, so this total is incomplete.
- 438 farms produced 19 million bushels of wheat on 347,000 acres, worth \$112 million.
- This amounts to an average price per bushel of wheat of \$5.89. Note that this price is an approximation, and does not necessarily represent the actual price at which wheat was sold.
- This includes:
  - 376 farms produced 17 million bushels of winter wheat on 298,000 acres.
  - 163 farms produced 2.5 million bushels of spring wheat on 49,000 acres.

*Vegetables & Melons (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):*

- 159 farms worked at least 45,000 acres to produce vegetables, selling at least \$73 million. Note that data for vegetable acreage in Union County and sales data in Wallowa were suppressed by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality, so these totals are incomplete.
- This represents a 9% increase in the number of farms (from 146 in 2002).
- 61 farms raised potatoes.

*Fruits (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):*

- 199 farms in the region hold at least 5,553 acres of orchards. Note that data for acreage of orchards in Wallowa County were suppressed by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality so this so this total is incomplete.
- 174 farms sold at least \$1 million of fruits, nuts and berries. Note that sales data for fruits, nuts, and berries in Baker, Umatilla, and Wallowa counties were suppressed by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality, so this total is incomplete.

*Nursery & Greenhouse Plants:*

- 50 farms sold at least \$585,000 worth of ornamentals in 2007. Note that sales data for ornamentals in Baker and Umatilla counties were suppressed by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality.
- This represents an increase of 6% in the number of farms (from 47) over 2002.
- 16 farms sold Christmas trees.

*Direct & Organic Sales:*

- 454 farms sell \$4.3 million of food products directly to consumers. This is a 14% increase of number of farms (399 in 2002) selling direct over 2002, and a 322% increase in direct sales over 2002 sales of \$1 million.
- This amounts to 1% of farm product sales, more than double the national average of 0.4%.
- Umatilla County leads the region in direct sales, with \$3.6 million.
- 26 farms in the region sold \$662,000 of organic products, accounting for less than 1% of Oregon's organic sales.
- For comparison, 799 farms in Oregon sold \$88 million of organic food products.
- 23 farms market through community supported agriculture (CSA).
- 440 farms produce and sell value-added products.

*Conservation Practices:*

- 1,030 farms use conservation methods such as no-till, limited tilling, filtering field runoff to remove chemicals, fencing animals to prevent them from entering streams, etc.
- 1,128 farms practice rotational or management intensive grazing.
- 65 farms generate energy or electricity on the farm.

*Other Crops:*

- 20 farms produced at least 66,000 bushels of oats, on at least 704 acres. Note that data for acreage and bushels of oats in Umatilla County were suppressed by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality, so these totals are incomplete. The USDA does not report sales data for oats.
- 113 farms produced 749,000 bushels of barley on 14,000 acres worth \$3.4 million.

**Limited-resource farms and others in Northeast Oregon  
(Census of Agriculture, 2007)**

<b>Small family farms:</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Limited-resource	486	13%	104,621	3%
Retirement	764	20%	305,929	10%
Residential/lifestyle	1,342	36%	369,195	12%
Farming occupation/lower sales	463	12%	288,821	9%
Farming occupation/higher sales	182	5%	336,758	11%
<b>Large family farms</b>	129	3%	459,737	14%
<b>Very large family farms</b>	169	5%	742,756	23%
<b>Nonfamily farms</b>	217	6%	566,854	18%
<b>Total</b>	3,752		3,174,671	

*Definitions of terms (Agricultural Census 2007):*

**Limited-resource farms** have market value of agricultural products sold gross sales of less than \$100,000, and total principal operator household income of less than \$20,000.

**Retirement farms** have market value of agricultural products sold of less than \$250,000, and a principal operator who reports being retired.

**Residential/lifestyle farms** have market value of agricultural products sold of less than \$250,000, and a principal operator who reports his/her primary occupation as other than farming.

**Farming occupation/lower-sales farms** have market value of agricultural products sold of less than \$100,000, and a principal operator who reports farming as his/her primary occupation.

**Farming occupation/higher-sales farms** have market value of agricultural products sold of between \$100,000 and \$249,999, and a principal operator who reports farming as his/her primary occupation.

**Large family farms** have market value of agricultural products sold between \$250,000 and \$499,999.

**Very large family farms** have market value of agricultural products sold of \$500,000 or more.

**Nonfamily farms are farms** organized as nonfamily corporations, as well as farms operated by hired manager.

## **County and State Highlights**

### **Baker County highlights (Agriculture Census 2007):**

- 688 farms, 2% less than in 2002.
- Baker County has 712,000 acres of land in farms.
- Farmers sold \$62 million of products in 2007.
- \$19 million (31%) of these sales were crops.
- \$43 million (69%) of these sales were livestock.
- The most prevalent farm size is 50 to 179 acres with 176 farms (26%) in this category.
- The next most prevalent is 10 to 49 acres with 161 (23%) farms.
- 131 farms (19%) are 1,000 acres or more.
- 228 farms (33%) are less than 50 acres.
- 366 farms (53%) sold less than \$10,000 in farm products.
- 120 farms (17%) sold more than \$100,000 in farm products.
- Baker county ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in Oregon for acreage of potatoes, with 3,717.
- The county ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the state for sales of cattle and calves, with \$41 million.
- Baker County ranks fifth in Oregon for acreage of forage crops (hay, etc.), with 57,000.
- The county ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the state for inventory of cattle and calves, with 81,000.
- Baker county ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in Oregon for acreage of wheat, with 8,481.
- The county ranks ninth in the state for acreage of vegetables, with 3,734.
- Baker county ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in Oregon for acreage of barley, with 646.
- The county ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the state for sales of livestock and poultry.
- 74 farms sold \$221,000 of food directly to consumers. This is a 6% increase in the number of farms selling direct (70 in 2002), and an 84% increase in direct sales over 2002 sales of \$120,000.
- Direct sales were 0.4% of farm product sales, the same as the national average of 0.4%.

### **Umatilla County highlights (Agriculture Census 2007):**

- 1,658 farms, 1% more than in 2002.
- Umatilla County has 1.4 million acres of land in farms.
- Farmers sold \$320 million of products in 2007.
- \$245 million (77%) of these sales were crops.
- \$75 million (23%) of these sales were livestock.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1 to 9 acres with 429 farms (26%) in this category.
- The next most prevalent is 10 to 49 acres with 428 (26%) farms.
- 304 farms (18%) are 1,000 acres or more.
- 857 farms (52%) are less than 50 acres.
- 1,026 farms (62%) sold less than \$10,000 in farm products.
- 337 farms (20%) sold more than \$100,000 in farm products.
- Umatilla County ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Oregon and 1<sup>st</sup> in the United States for acreage of green peas, with 19,000.
- The county ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the state for acreage of vegetables, with 41,000.
- Umatilla County ranks first in the state for acreage of wheat, with 303,000.
- The county ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Oregon for sales of grains, oilseeds, and dry beans and peas, with \$104 million.
- Umatilla County ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the state for sales of vegetables, with \$61 million.

- The county ranks third in the state for sales of cattle and calves, with \$66 million.
- Umatilla County ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in Oregon for inventory of pheasants, with 9,051.
- The county ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the state for inventory of bee colonies, with 5,245.
- Umatilla County ranks fourth in the state for sales of agricultural products
- The county ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in Oregon for crop sales.
- Umatilla County ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the state for livestock and poultry sales.
- The county ranks fifth in the state for sales of forage crops (hay, etc.), with \$45 million.
- Umatilla County ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in Oregon for sales of sheep, goats, and their products, but *sales figures were not reported by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality.*
- The county ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the state for acreage of forage, with 44,000.
- Umatilla County ranks seventh in Oregon for inventory of cattle and calves, with 68,000.
- The county ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the state for inventory of sheep and lambs, with 8,454.
- Umatilla County ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the state for acreage of field and grass seed crops, with 18,000.
- The county ranks eighth in Oregon for sales of fruits, tree nuts, and berries, but *sales figures were not reported by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality.*
- Umatilla County ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the state for inventory of horses and ponies, with 3,861.
- 217 farms sell \$3.6 million of food products directly to consumers. This is a 26% increase of number of farms (172 in 2002) selling direct over 2002 and a 450% increase in direct sales over 2002 sales of \$653,000.
- This amounts to 1.1% of farm product sales, nearly three times the national average of 0.4%.

**Union County highlights (Agriculture Census 2007):**

- 880 farms, 11% less than in 2002.
- Union County has 488,000 acres of land in farms.
- Farmers sold \$58 million of products in 2007.
- \$42 million (72%) of these sales were crops.
- \$16 million (28%) of these sales were livestock.
- The most prevalent farm size is 10 to 49 acres with 247 farms (28%) in this category.
- The next most prevalent is 50 to 179 acres with 175 (20%) farms.
- 114 farms (13%) are 1,000 acres or more.
- 384 farms (44%) are less than 50 acres.
- 564 farms (64%) sold less than \$10,000 in farm products.
- 104 farms (12%) sold more than \$100,000 in farm products.
- Union County ranks second in Oregon and 5<sup>th</sup> in the country for acreage of mint for oil, with 6,797.
- The county ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the state for sales of hogs and pigs, with \$419,000.
- Union County ranks sixth in Oregon for acreage of wheat, with 27,000.
- The county ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the state for acreage of forage crops (hay etc.), with 42,000.
- Union County ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in Oregon for sales of grains, oilseeds, and dry beans and peas, with \$15 million.
- The county ranks seventh in the state for acreage of barley, with 3,783.
- Union County ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in Oregon for inventory of hogs and pigs, with 1,770.
- The county ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the state for acreage of field and grass seed crops, with 11,000.
- 106 farms sell \$222,000 of food products directly to consumers. There was no change in number of farms selling direct since 2002 and a 34% increase in direct sales over 2002 sales of \$166,000.
- This amounts to 0.4% of farm product sales, the same as the national average of 0.4%.

**Wallowa County highlights (Agriculture Census 2007):**

- 526 farms, 5% more than in 2002.
- Wallowa County has 528,000 acres of land in farms.
- Farmers sold \$32 million of products in 2007.
- \$12 million (38%) of these sales were crops.
- \$20 million (62%) of these sales were livestock.
- The most prevalent farm size is 1,000 acres or more with 113 farms (21%) in this category.
- The next most prevalent is 108 acres with 108 (21%) farms.
- 170 farms (32%) are less than 50 acres.
- 275 farms (52%) sold less than \$10,000 in farm products.
- 84 farms (16%) sold more than \$100,000 in farm products.
- Wallowa County ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Oregon for inventory of bison, but *inventory figures were not reported by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality.*
- The county ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the state for acreage of short-rotation woody crops, but *acreage figures for short-rotation woody crop were not reported by the USDA in an effort to protect confidentiality.*
- Wallowa County ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the state for sales of barley, with 3,827.
- The county ranks tenth in Oregon for acreage of forage (hay, etc.), with 35,000.
- Wallowa County ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the state for acreage of wheat, with 8,117.
- The county ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the state for inventory of cattle and calves, with 43,000.
- 57 farms sold \$313,000 of food directly to consumers. This is a 12% increase in the number of farms selling direct (51 in 2002), and a 240% increase in direct sales over 2002 sales of \$92,000.
- Direct sales were 1% of farm product sales, more than double the national average of 0.4%.

**State of Oregon highlights (Agriculture Census 2007):**

- 38,553 farms, 4% less than in 2002.
- Oregon has 16 million acres of land in farms.
- Farmers sold \$4.4 billion of products in 2007.
- \$3 billion (68%) of these sales were crops.
- \$1.4 billion (32%) of these sales were livestock.
- The most prevalent farm size is 10 to 49 acres with 14,142 farms (37%) in this category.
- The next most prevalent is 1 to 9 acres with 9,546 (25%) farms.
- 2,564 farms (7%) are 1,000 acres or more.
- 23,688 farms (61%) are less than 50 acres.
- 26,035 farms (68%) sold less than \$10,000 in farm products.
- 4,678 farms (12%) sold more than \$100,000 in farm products.
- Oregon ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the U.S. for acreage of Christmas trees, with 67,000.
- The state ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the country for acreage of field and grass seed crops, with 557,000.
- Oregon ranks first in the country for sales of Christmas trees, with \$117 million.
- The state ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S. for sales of ornamentals, with \$989 million.
- Oregon ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country for sales of forage crops (hay, etc.), with \$698 million.
- The state ranks fourth in the country for sales of fruits, tree nuts, and berries, with \$516 million.
- Oregon ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. for sales of sheep, goats, and their products, with \$21 million.
- The state ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the country for acreage of vegetables, with 150,000.
- Oregon ranks ninth in the country for inventory of sheep and lambs, with 217,000.
- The state ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. for vegetable sales, with \$339 million.
- 6,274 farms sold \$56 million of food directly to consumers. This is a 2% decrease in the number of farms selling direct (6,383 in 2002), and a 163% increase in direct sales over 2002 sales of \$21 million.
- Direct sales were 1.3% of farm product sales, over three times the national average of 0.4%.
- If direct food sales made up a single commodity, the value of these sales would outrank the state's 15<sup>th</sup>-most important product, chicken eggs.
- 933 farms farm organically, with a total of 46,000 acres of harvested cropland, and 42,000 acres of pastureland.
- 16,000 acres on 470 farms are undergoing organic conversion.
- 799 farms in Oregon sold \$88 million of organic food products, including \$42 million of crops (this may include ornamental and greenhouse crops), \$3 million of livestock and poultry, and \$43 million of products from livestock and poultry (such as milk or eggs).
- 311 farms market through community supported agriculture (CSA).
- 1,753 farms produce value-added products.
- 9,327 farms use conservation methods such as no-till, limited tilling, filtering field runoff to remove chemicals, fencing animals to prevent them from entering streams, etc.
- 9,694 farms practice rotational management of intensive grazing.
- 631 farms generate energy or electricity on the farms.

**Oregon's top farm products in 2010 (Economic Research Service)**

*See chart on next page.*

	<b>\$ millions</b>
1 Ornaments	760
2 Cattle & calves	446
3 Dairy products	412
4 Wheat	326
5 Hay	253
6 Potatoes	139
7 Onions	129
8 Ryegrass	123
9 Pears	90
10 Cherries	78
11 Fescue	73
12 Hazelnuts (filberts)	67
13 Blueberries	64
14 Grapes	63
15 Chicken eggs	52
16 Mint	43
17 Blackberries	35
18 Hops	31
19 Corn	27
20 Apples	26
21 Corn, sweet	26
22 Beans, snap	20
23 Sheep and lambs	19
24 Bluegrass, Kentucky	19

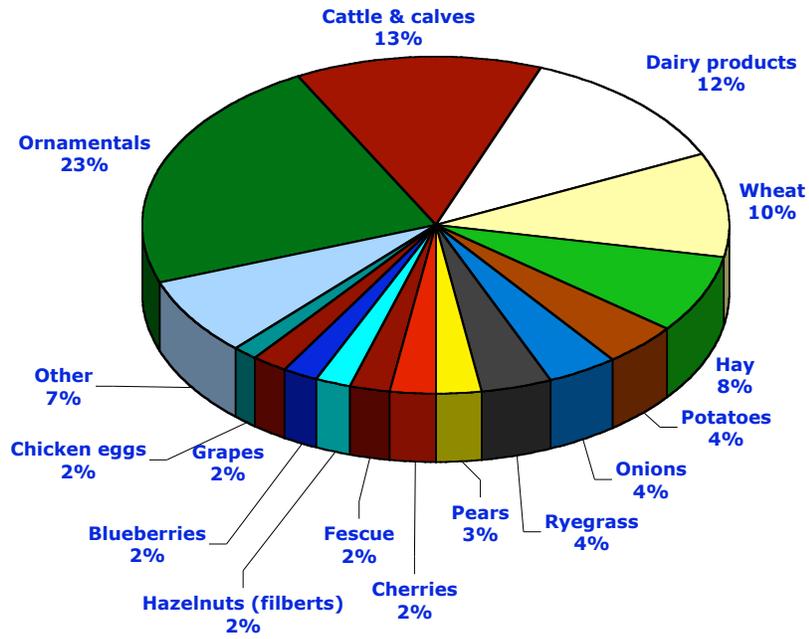
*Note: broiler chickens were also listed among Oregon's top 25 products, but sales figures for these products were not released by ERS, in an effort to protect confidentiality.*

Note also that at \$56 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more than the value of the 15<sup>th</sup>-ranking product, chicken eggs.

### Oregon's top farm products in 2010 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page

Top farm products in Oregon, 2010



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

**Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (BEA):**

Northeast Oregon ranchers and farmers sell \$500 million of food products per year (1987-2009 average), spending \$550 million to raise them, for an average loss of \$50 million each year. This is a loss of 10% of sales. *Note that these sales figures compiled by the BEA may differ from cash receipts recorded by the USDA Agriculture Census (above).*

Overall, farm producers spent \$1.2 billion more producing crops and livestock than they earned by selling these products during the years 1987 to 2009. Farm production costs exceeded cash receipts for 21 years of that 23-year period. Moreover, 58% of the region's farms and ranches reported a net loss to the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Northeast Oregon farmers and ranchers earned \$133 million less by selling farm products in 2009 than they earned in 1969 (in 2009 dollars).

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$59 million per year of farm-related income — primarily custom work, and rental income (23-year average for 1987-2009). Federal farm support payments are relatively small, averaging \$40 million per year for the region for the same years.

**The region's consumers:**

*See also information covering low-income food consumption and food-related health conditions, page 1-2 above.*

Northeast Oregon consumers spend \$322 million buying food each year, including \$188 million for home use. Most of this food (\$290 million) is sourced outside the region. Only \$4 million of food products (0.9% of farm cash receipts and 1.3% of the region's consumer market) are sold by farmers directly to consumers.

Estimated change in net assets (that is, assets minus liabilities) for all region households combined was a loss of \$633 million in 2009 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on the region's consumers trying to buy food.

**Farm and food economy summary:**

Farmers lose \$50 million each year producing food commodities, while spending \$225 million buying inputs sourced outside of the region.<sup>2</sup> From the standpoint of the region as a whole, these external input purchases take money away from the local economy, whether individual farms make a profit or not. This is a total loss of \$275 million to the county.

Meanwhile, consumers spend \$290 million buying food sourced outside the region. Thus, total loss to the region is \$570 million of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to more than the value of all food commodities raised in the region.

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<sup>2</sup> Note that there are some gaps in the production expense data reported by USDA in the Census of Agriculture for 2007. The \$30 million figure takes into account these gaps in reporting.

**Northeast Oregon: markets for food eaten at home (2009):**

Northeast Oregon residents purchase \$322 million of food each year, including \$189 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 40.8
Fruits & vegetables	34.5
Cereals and bakery products	24.1
Dairy products	20.2
“Other,” incl. Sweets, fats, & oils	68.2

If Northeast Oregon residents purchased 15% of their food for home use directly from Northeast Oregon farmers, this would generate \$28 million of new farm income for the region. Taking this step would require each resident of the region to buy, on average, less than \$5.00 of food directly from the region’s farmers each week.

**Pendleton: markets for food eaten at home (2009):**

Pendleton residents purchase \$225 million of food each year, including \$131 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 28.6
Fruits & vegetables	24.2
Cereals and bakery products	16.8
Dairy products	14.1
“Other,” incl. Sweets, fats, & oils	47.7

**Baker County: markets for food eaten at home (2009):**

Baker County residents purchase \$43 million of food each year, including \$25 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 5.4
Fruits & vegetables	4.6
Cereals and bakery products	3.2
Dairy products	2.7
“Other,” incl. Sweets, fats, & oils	9.0

**Umatilla County: markets for food eaten at home (2009):**

Umatilla County residents purchase \$195 million of food each year, including \$114 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 24.7
Fruits & vegetables	20.9
Cereals and bakery products	14.6
Dairy products	12.2
“Other,” incl. Sweets, fats, & oils	41.2

**Union County: markets for food eaten at home (2009):**

Union County residents purchase \$66 million of food each year, including \$39 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 8.4
Fruits & vegetables	7.1
Cereals and bakery products	5.0
Dairy products	4.2
“Other,” incl. Sweets, fats, & oils	14.1

**Wallowa County: markets for food eaten at home (2009):**

Wallowa County residents purchase \$18 million of food each year, including \$11 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 2.3
Fruits & vegetables	2.0
Cereals and bakery products	1.4
Dairy products	1.1
“Other,” incl. Sweets, fats, & oils	3.9

**Metro Boise: markets for food eaten at home (2009):**

Metro Boise residents purchase \$1.9 billion of food each year, including \$1.1 billion to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 239
Fruits & vegetables	202
Cereals and bakery products	141
Dairy products	118
“Other,” incl. Sweets, fats, & oils	400

**Oregon: markets for food eaten at home (2009):**

Oregon residents purchase \$10 billion of food each year, including \$6 billion to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 1,287
Fruits & vegetables	1,089
Cereals and bakery products	759
Dairy products	636
“Other,” incl. Sweets, fats, & oils	2,150

**Key data sources:**

**Bureau of Economic Analysis data on farm production balance**

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

**Food consumption estimates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey**

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

**U.S. Census of Agriculture**

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

**USDA/Economic Research Service food consumption data:**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/>

**USDA/ Economic Research Service farm income data:**

<http://ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome/finfidmu.htm>

**For more information:**

To see results from *Finding Food in Farm Country* studies in other regions of the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/locales.html>

To read the original *Finding Food in Farm Country* study from Southeast Minnesota (written for the Experiment in Rural Cooperation): <http://www.crcworks.org/ff.pdf>

To view a PowerPoint presented in March, 2008, by Ken Meter at Rep. Collin Peterson's (D-MN) Minnesota agricultural forum, called the "Home Grown Economy":

<http://www.crcworks.org/crcppts/petersonkm08.pdf>

To get a brief list of essential food facts, many of which are cited in the presentation above,

<http://www.crcworks.org/foodmarkets.pdf>

To link to further analysis of farm and food economies in the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/econ.html>

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