

## 2012 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:**                      **\$99,003,000** (data on reverse side)

(% of Total Est. Farm Gate Sales: Crops = 74.6%; Livestock = 22.6%; Small Woodlots = 2.8%)

**Small Grains:**                      34,700 acres (30,000 acres wheat; 4,500 acres barley; 200 acres oats)

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

**Turf Grass/Legume Seed:** 7,040 acres (68% Kentucky bluegrass; 27% fine fescues; 5% other)

**Peppermint for oil:** 8,800 acres

**Sweet Cherries:** 340 acres

**Other Field Crops:** 6,120 acres (includes certified seed & commercial potatoes; sugar beet for sugar; specialty seed crops (canola, sunflower, vegetable seed, field beans/peas; & other crops)

**Cattle:** 14,000 head (beef cows)

**Horses/Mules:** 2,000 head

**Sheep:** 1,500 head (ewes)

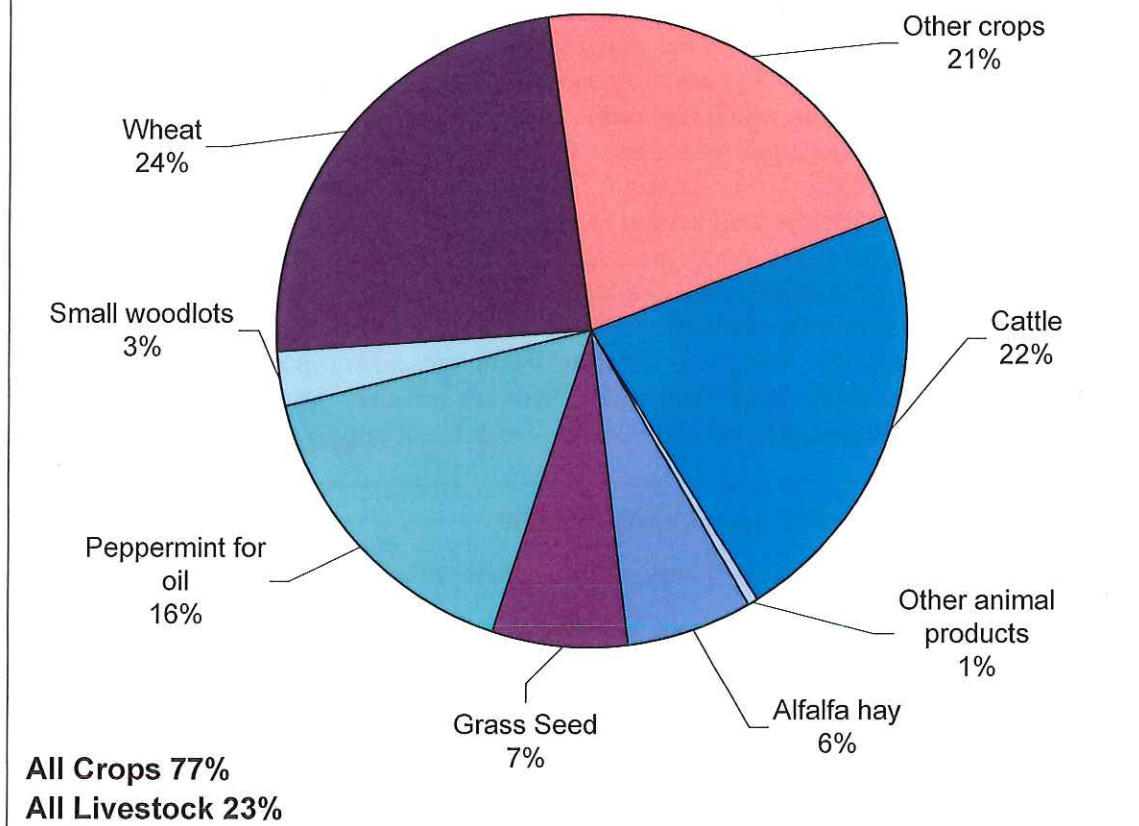
**Other Livestock/Poultry:** 2,000 head

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

Location	Elevation	Avg. Annual	Avg. Max	Avg. Min	Median Frost Free Dates (32 F)	
	(ft)	Precipitation (in)	Temp (F)	Temp (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

*Note: historical data not available for some communities.*

# **AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY SALES UNION COUNTY, 2012p**



## **2012p Sales By Commodity** **\$ 000**

Alfalfa hay	6,210
Grass Seed	7,040
Peppermint for oil	15,990
Small woodlots	2,760
Wheat	23,505
Other crops	21,115

**ALL CROPS 76,620**

Cattle	21,769
Other animal products	614

**ALL LIVESTOCK 22,383**

**ALL CROPS & LIVESTOCK 99,003**

## **Agricultural Sales by Year** **\$ 000**

Year	Crops	Livestock	Total
2010r	50,066	17,564	67,630
2011r	70,976	21,769	92,745
2012p	76,620	22,383	99,003

*r - revised, p - preliminary*

*Source: Extension Economic Information Office*

*Oregon State University*

*February 15, 2013*