

# Farmland in Oregon

## A Look at the Numbers

*Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire*

*September 24, 2024*

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# Key Points

- Oregon agriculture is very important to Oregon's economy
- Oregon agriculture is incredibly diverse
- Diversity in crops, production systems, farm sizes, and markets keeps the industry resilient
- Oregon is a leader in protecting agricultural land, but there are signs of weakness.



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# Diversity of Production

- Over 225 commodities produced in Oregon.
- Helps create greater stability throughout the industry over time.
- Varied size of farms and methods of production.
- Most of Oregon's ag products are not federal commodity crops.



# Oregon's Top 10 Agricultural Producing Counties, 2022

• Marion	\$874,627,000
• Morrow	\$866,052,000
• Umatilla	\$525,616,000
• Malheur	\$510,625,000
• Clackamas	\$510,305,000
• Yamhill	\$418,319,000
• Linn	\$342,098,000
• Washington	\$326,039,000
• Polk	\$249,678,000
• Lake	\$175,700,000

2022 USDA Census of Agriculture - Oregon



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# Oregon Ag's ECONOMIC footprint

- \$28.9 billion economic footprint
- \$22.9 billion in sales of goods and services
- 15% of Oregon's economy
- 12% of jobs or 1 in every 8 jobs
- Farm gate value over \$6.7 billion



# Agricultural exports

- 75-80% of production leaves the state
- 35-40% of production leaves the country
- Largest export sector in terms of volume
- Second largest export sector in terms of value
- 19% of total state exports
- 60% of the Port of Portland's total tonnage of exports

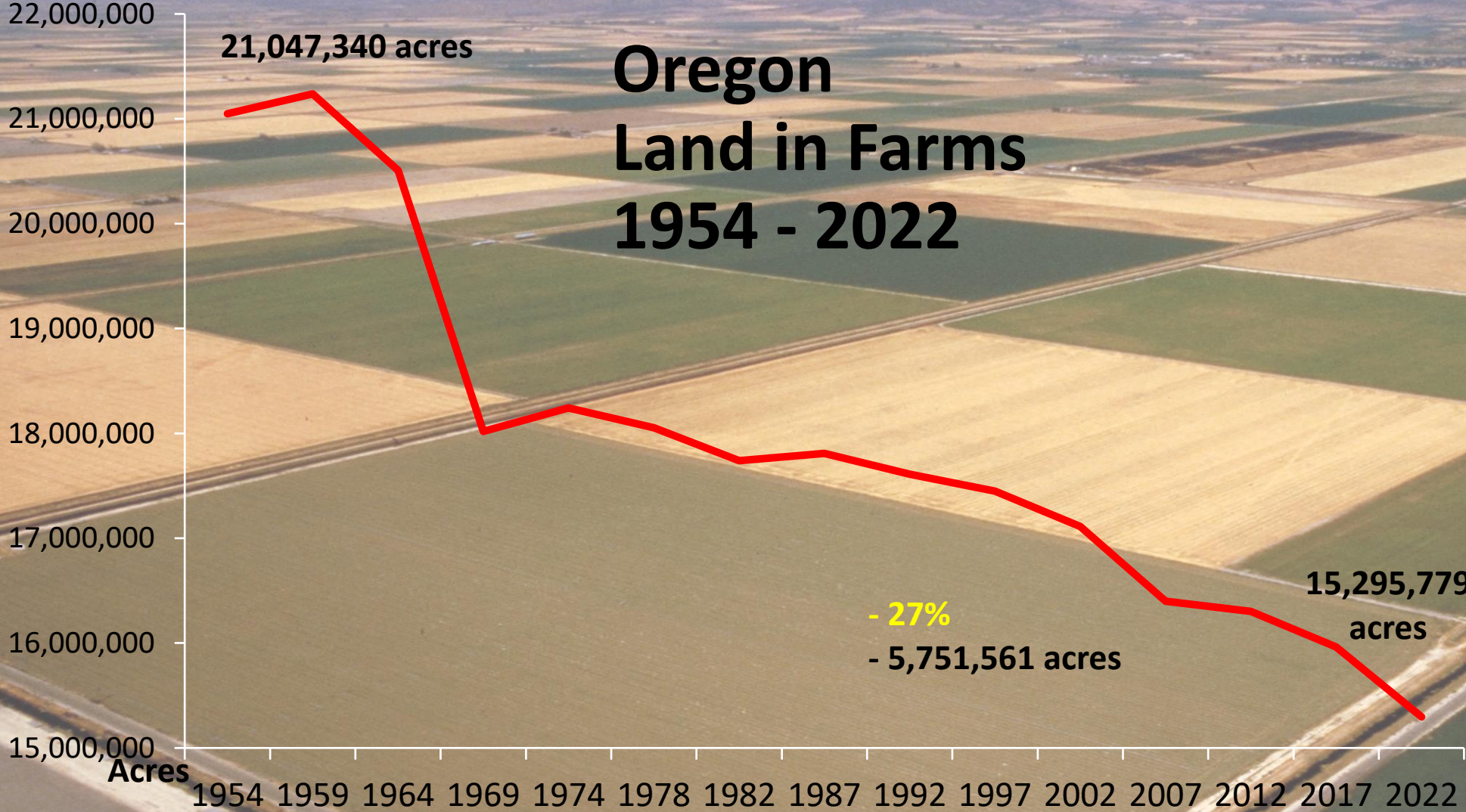


= Traded Sector



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# Oregon Land in Farms 1954 - 2022



- 27%  
- 5,751,561 acres

15,295,779  
acres

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, Oregon

# Oregon Agricultural Land Base

## Land in Farms

- 15.3 million acres of land in farms
- 35,547 total farms
- 67% are 49 acres or less in size
- These farms account for 2.3% of the area of land in farms and 8.5% of the production value
- 71.4% of the area of land in farms involves farms that generate \$100,000 or more

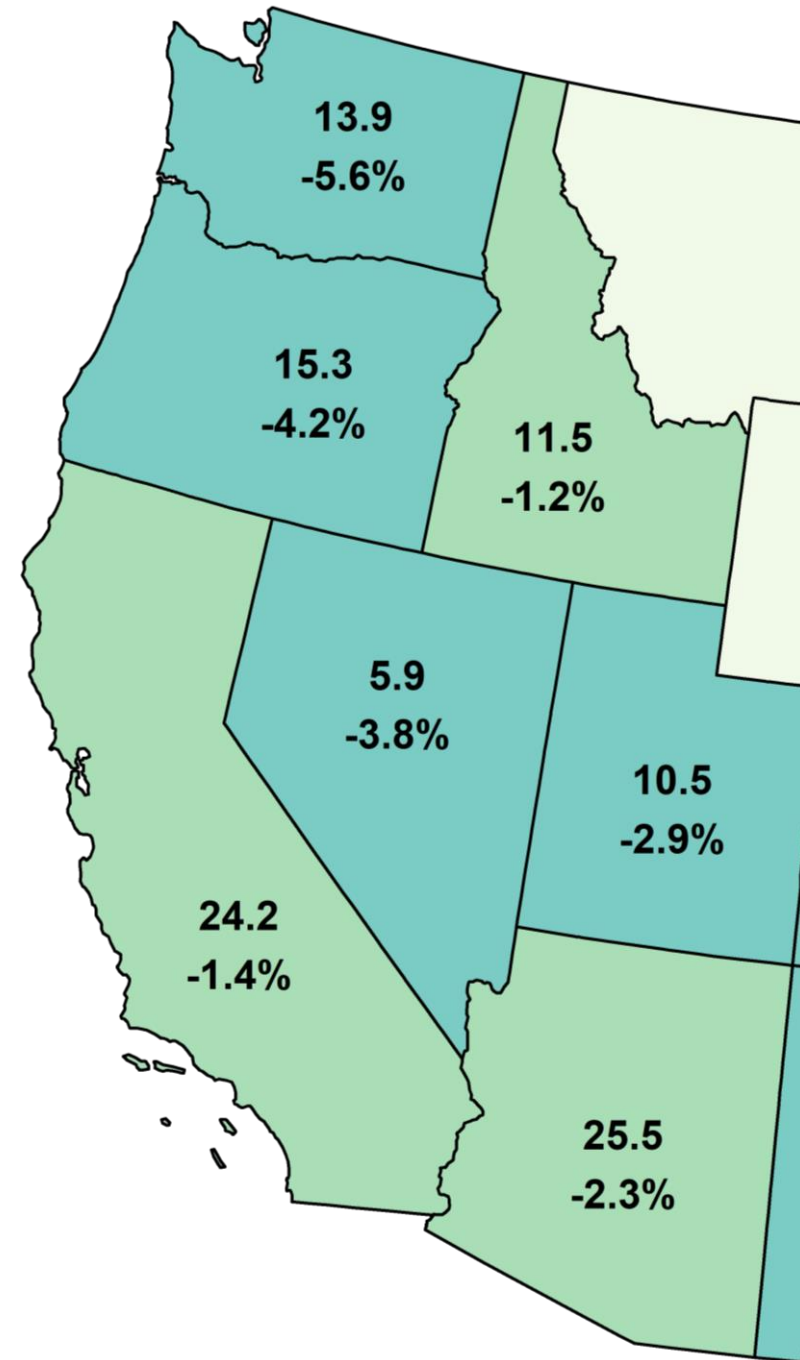
Total land area of Oregon = 63.018 million acres



## Land in Farms (*million acres*) As a Percent Change

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- 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture - Oregon



# Conversion by County

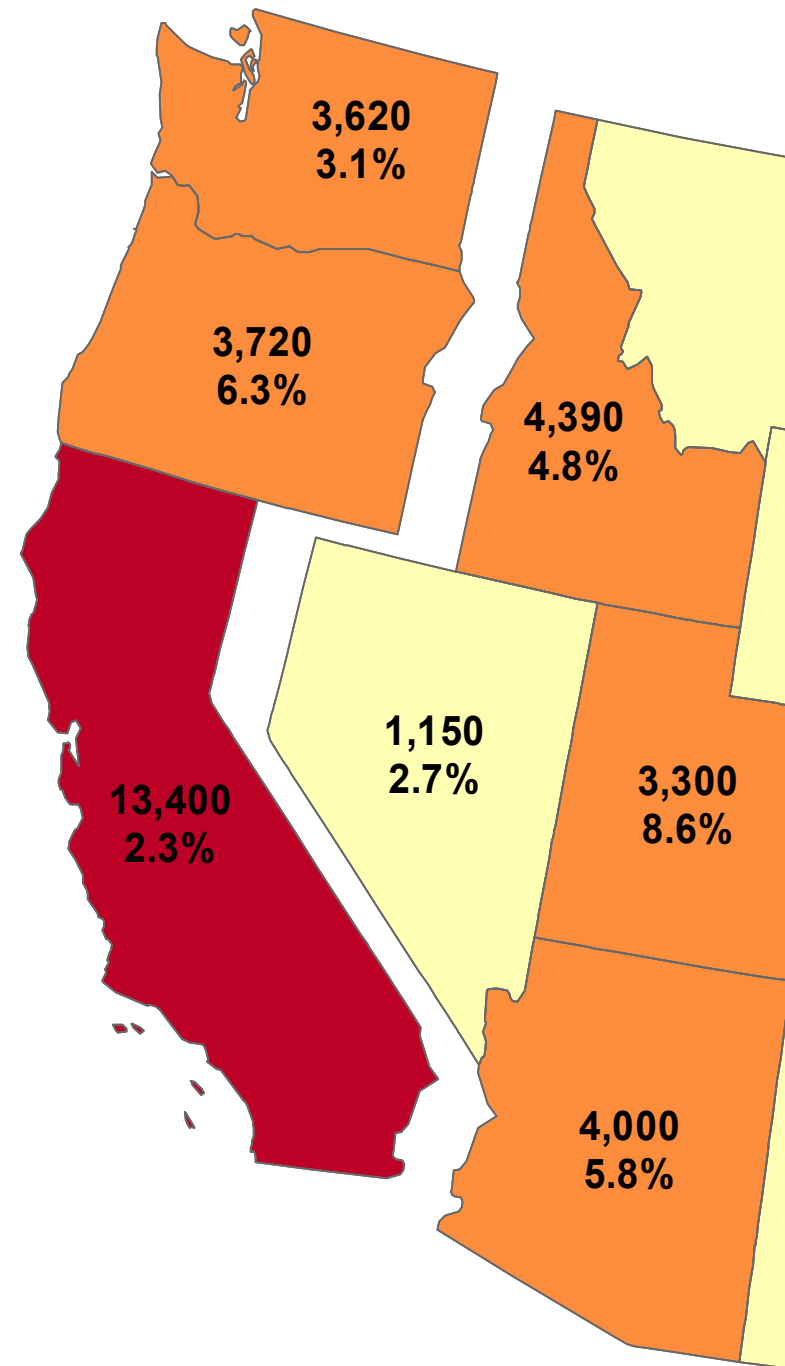
- Wasco
  - Jefferson
  - Sherman
  - Harney
  - Morrow
  - Douglas
  - Union
- -410,411 acres
  - -250,576 acres
  - -122,341 acres
  - -77,419 acres
  - -73,296 acres
  - -70,620 acres
  - -42,239 acres



# 2024 Farm Real Estate Value by State

Dollars per Acre and Percent Change from 2023

*USDA - NASS August 2, 2024*



## Estimated Market Value of Land and Buildings: Selected Counties

	Avg. \$/Farm			Avg. \$/Acre		
	2017	2022		2017	2022	
Oregon	1,032,545	1,589,147	+53.9%	2,433	3,693	+51.8%
Baker	1,337,390	2,630,243	+96.7%	1,250	1,942	+55.4%
Benton	821,618	1,268,333	+54.4%	6,438	12,931	+100.8%
Deschutes	786,080	1,253,846	+59.5%	8,867	12,883	+45.3%
Harney	1,996,031	3,934,938	+97.1%	682	1,268	+85.9%
Hood River	685,502	1,025,330	+49.6%	13,926	19,141	+37.4%
Jackson	677,191	1,025,330	+53.3%	8,494	12,421	+46.2%
Jefferson	1,707,699	2,829,728	+65.7%	855	1,816	+112%
Linn	1,292,998	1,894,386	+45.5%	12,3671	17,033	+37.8%
Morrow	1,269,551	2,318,652	+82.6%	1,127	2,202	+95.4%
Polk	852,419	1,371,288	+60.9%	7,116	10,255	+44.1%
Sherman	2,349,030	3,279,620	+39.6%	850	1,410	+65.9%
Umatilla	1,430,953	2,249,721	+57.2%	1,824	2,437	+33.6%
Washington	1,020,247	1,577,317	+54.6%	17,099	22,445	+31.3%
Wasco	2,127,529	3,864,528	+81.6%	911	1,809	+98.6%



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Department of Land Conservation & Development

# OREGON FARM & FOREST LAND USE REPORT

## 2020 –2021



November 18, 2022



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# Replacement Dwellings

- **“Since 1994, fewer dwellings associated with an operating farm have been approved on agricultural lands than other type of dwellings.”**
- DLCD 2020-2021 Farm Forest Report, 17.
  
- **36% of the new homes approved in Oregon’s exclusive farm use zone since 1994 were “replacement” dwellings, “which may or may not be associated with a farm.”**
- DLCD 2020-2021 Farm Forest Report, 16-17.



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# Home Occupations

- **The most commonly approved nonresidential nonfarm use in exclusive farm use zones are “home occupations” for short-term lodging.**
- DLCD 2020-2021 Farm Forest Report, 17.
- **Some counties allow luxury hotels that are not the property owner’s home.**
- **“It has been suggested \*\*\*that clarifying and limiting the definition of Home Occupation in EFU zones would alleviate confusion and uncertainty related to the scope of uses allowed.”**
- DLCD 2020-2021 Farm Forest Report, 17.



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# Rezoning of Agricultural Land

- “There are currently no standards to guide counties in identifying and zoning individual parcels or tracts which do not meet the definition of agricultural or forest resource lands.”
- DLCDC 2020-2021 Farm Forest Report, 39.



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# Rezoning of Agricultural Land

- The 2009 legislature authorized a process for counties to designate agricultural lands for non-resource use, *but*
- “counties and landowners have not used this coordinated process.”
- DLCDC 2020-2021 Farm Forest Report, 39.



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# Energy Facility Siting on EFU lands



Status	Solar MW	Solar Acreage/Sq. Miles
<b>Projects Under Jurisdiction of OR EFSC</b>		
<b>ACTIVE</b>		
Operational – 2 Projects	212	1,546 ac./ 2.41 sq. mi.
In Construction – 2 Projects	200	3,087 ac./ 4.8 sq. mi.
Approved but not built – Approval still valid 8 projects	1,042	12,071 ac./18.86 sq. mi.
Under Review – 10 projects	5,844	54,157 ac./ 84.6 sq. mi.
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7,298</b>	<b>70,863 ac./ 110.7 sq. mi.</b>
<b>INACTIVE</b>		
Approved but not built – Approval expired 1 project	75	798 ac./ 1.25 sq. mi.
Request withdrawn or expired prior to final decision	350	5,022 ac./ 7.8 sq. mi.
Denied - 0 projects		
Decommissioned – 0 projects		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>5,022 ac./ .8 sq. mi.</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,723</b>	<b>51,889 acres / 80.72 sq. miles</b>
Source: Oregon Dept. of Energy, 8/20/2024 Does not include projects under county jurisdiction		



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*Mt. Hood and the  
Hood River Valley*



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