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Tools for Community Self-determination



Greater Treasure Valley region (Southwest Idaho & Eastern Oregon) Local Farm & Food Economy

Highlights of a data compilation
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for
**Treasure Valley Food Coalition
Oregon Food Bank**

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The following data compilation covers a 9-county region including Ada, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Onyhee, Payette, & Washington Counties in Idaho, as well as Harney & Malheur Counties in Oregon.

Key findings:

690,911 residents receive \$24 billion of income annually (2008). Real personal income has increased nearly five-fold since 1969, in part due to rapid population increase. Despite this rise, there has been limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

Lower-income residents of the region spend \$283 million each year buying food, and receive \$60 million of SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps), and millions more in WIC coupons.

One key trend in the Greater Treasure Valley region has been an increase in corporate farming. Over the years 1969 to 2008, the percentage of farm income earned by corporate farms, as a percentage of farm proprietor income, rose from 10% to 55%.

Much of this growth in corporate farming has involved new operations that were not open in 1969. This appears to be the principal reason for growth in net cash income. Yet in many cases, this production has drawn livestock production from other states; this often represents a loss of income for farmers in other regions.

The increase in corporate farming is also associated with an increased tendency for the USDA to suppress data to protect confidentiality. Yet the wisdom of this strategy is questionable, since competitors often know each other's cost profiles; the main audiences excluded from information about farm production are typically the public and policy makers. As the security of food supplies becomes a larger concern, the public needs to know about the economics of food production.

Medical costs for treating diabetes in the Greater Treasure Valley region are estimated at \$399 million per year.

Principal products in the region are cattle and calves, milk and dairy, forage, and grains. Over 90% of farm sales involve animals or feed for animals; less than 7% of farm production could be eaten by consumers directly. Only 0.3 percent of farm sales are sold directly to consumers.

Direct food sales are lower than national averages, but rising markedly. Over the five-year period 2002 to 2007, the number of farms selling directly to consumers rose 36% (over 7% each year), while the value of direct sales rose 181% (over 36% *per year*).

Among the counties involved in this study are significant producers in both Idaho and Oregon:

- Ada County ranks first in Idaho for sales of nursery and ornamental crops.
- Ada County ranks second in the state for hog sales.
- Ada County ranks fourth in Idaho for inventory of layer hens.
- Canyon County ranks first in Idaho, and 24th in U.S., for the number of bee colonies.
- Canyon County ranks first in the state for sales of fruits and nuts.
- Canyon County ranks first in the state for acreage devoted to corn for grain.
- Canyon County ranks second in Idaho for sales of forage.
- Elmore County ranks second in Idaho for sales of cattle and calves.
- Gem County ranks third in Idaho for fruit and nut sales.
- Owyhee County ranks second in the state for number of bee colonies.
- Payette County ranks second in Idaho for sales of fruits and nuts.
- Payette County ranks third in the state for sales of poultry and eggs.
- Payette County ranks third in Idaho for the number of bee colonies.
- Washington County ranks fourth in Idaho for sales of onions.
- Harney County ranks first in Oregon for acres devoted to forage crops.
- Harney County ranks third in the state for inventory of cattle and calves.
- Malheur County is Oregon's premier producer of corn.
- Malheur County is the number one producer of onions in the nation.

Farmers have also experienced significant losses in two counties.

- Production costs for farmers in Gem County have exceeded cash receipts each year since 1995.
- Production costs have exceeded cash receipts for farmers in Harney County for all but three years since 1983.

Since these two counties produce relatively small quantities of farm commodities, their data do not greatly affect regional totals. Still, these data indicate that for any given county or commodity, forty-year trends may differ from region-wide findings.

Overall, farmers gain \$221 million each year producing food commodities, spending \$600 million buying inputs from external suppliers, for a net outflow of \$400 million from the region's economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$1.7 billion buying food from outside. When this is added to farm production losses, total loss to the region is \$2 billion of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to more than the value of all commodities raised in the region.

Detailed findings:

Greater Treasure Valley region: (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

690,911 residents receive \$24 billion of income annually (2008). Real personal income has increased nearly five-fold since 1969, in part due to rapid population increase. The three main sources of personal income all provide about \$2.8 billion of income each year: manufacturing; service jobs; and interest, rent and dividend income. Government jobs rank fourth, with \$2 billion. Transfer payments (public payments such as pensions or other benefits) total \$1.6 billion.

Although population has increased rapidly, there has been only limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

Issues affecting low-income residents of Greater Treasure Valley region:

Over 150,544 residents (28%) 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 \$283 million each year buying food, and receive \$60 million of SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and millions more in WIC coupons. The region's 8,845 farmers receive an average combined total of \$28 million in subsidies (19-year average, 1990-2008), mostly to raise crops such as corn or wheat that are sold as commodities, not to feed local residents. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, Bureau of Labor Statistics, & Bureau of Economic Analysis.*

Seven percent of the region's households (nearly 41,000 residents) earn less than \$10,000 per year. *Source: Federal Census of 2000.*

22% of adults aged 18-64 in the Boise Metro area have no health insurance. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

Food-related health conditions:

6% of Boise Metro residents have been diagnosed with diabetes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

Medical costs for treating diabetes in the Greater Treasure Valley region are estimated at \$399 million per year. *Source: American Diabetes Association.*

63% of Boise Metro residents are overweight (38%) or obese (25%).

The Greater Treasure Valley region's farms (Agricultural Census, 2007)

Agriculture Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009

Land:

- The Greater Treasure Valley region has 8,559 farms. This is a 3% increase in the number of farms over 2002.
- The portion of the region that is located in Idaho contains 27% of all Idaho farms. Moreover, it holds 43% of the state's farms of less than 10 acres.
- 679 (8%) of these are 1,000 acres or more.
- 5,101 (60%) farms are less than 50 acres.
- The most prevalent farm size is 10-49 acres, with a total of 2,846 farms (33% of farms).
- Average farm size is 558 acres, compared to averages of 454 acres for Idaho and 425 for Oregon.
- The region has 4.7 million acres of land in farms.
- One quarter of the region's farmland is cropland.
- The region's farms have 833,738 acres of harvested cropland.
- 7,094 (83%) farms have a total of 950,509 acres of irrigated land.
- Average value of land and buildings per farm is \$818,926.
- One key trend in the Greater Treasure Valley region has been an increase in corporate farming. Over the years 1969 to 2008, the percentage of farm income earned by corporate farms, as a percentage of farm proprietor income, rose from 10% to 55%.

Sales (Note that there may be discrepancies between Ag Census data and Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below):

- \$1.6 billion of crops and livestock were sold (2007).
- This was a 30% increase in sales over 2002 sales of \$1.2 billion.
- Total farm production expenses were \$1.4 billion, for an increase of \$256 million (22%) in production costs since 2002.
- The largest single production expense was feed, which cost \$353 million. Purchases of livestock ranked second, at \$208 million. Third largest expense item was hired labor, at \$153 million. Depreciation totaling \$109 million ranked fourth. Farmers also spent \$82 million on supplies, \$73 million on fertilizer and chemicals, \$61 million on fuel and oil, and \$56 million paying interest on debt.
- \$530 million of crops were sold (32% of sales), \$144 million (37%) more than in 2002.
- \$1.1 billion of livestock and products were sold (68% of sales).
- 5,098 (60%) of the region's farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007. Their aggregate sales of \$12 million amounted to 0.7% of the region's farm product sales.
- 1,294 farms (15%) sold more than \$100,000 of products, an aggregate total of \$1.56 million, 95% of the region's farm product sales.
- 1,967 farms received \$9 million of federal subsidies in 2007. *[Note that Agriculture Census data differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data; see below.]*
- 5,278 (62%) of the region's farms reported net losses in 2007 even after federal subsidies are taken into account. This is less than the Oregon average of 65%, and larger than the Idaho average of 54%.

Grains, Dry Edible Beans, Oil Crops, and others:

- Greater Treasure Valley farms sold \$107 million of grains, oil crops and edible beans, \$57 million (113%) more than the \$50 million sold in 2002.

- 564 farms raised \$65 million (12 million bushels) of corn on 66,377 acres in 2007.
- This was an average price of \$5.44 per bushel.
- 56% of the corn that was raised in Idaho was grown in the Idaho counties that are part of this region.
- 611 of the region's farmers sold 8.4 million bushels of wheat, a majority of it winter wheat, on 83,649 acres.
- The region's wheat crop brought a total sales revenue of \$44 million.
- 66 farms raised 136,877 bushels of oats on 1,431 acres.
- 166 farms produced 998,358 bushels of barley on 10,656 acres, worth \$3 million.
- 132 farms produced 252,616 hundredweight of dry edible beans on 11,101 acres, worth \$8 million.
- 187 farms produced 1.2 million tons of sugar beets on 34,117 acres.

Cattle & Dairy:

- 4,269 farms hold an inventory of 906,341 cattle and calves.
- 862,688 cattle worth at least \$524 million were sold from 3,733 farms in 2007. Sales totaled at least \$388 million in 2002, from 3,350 ranches and farms. *Note, however, that sales data from Elmore County were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, so sales totals for both years under-represent actual sales.*
- 263 farms were reported as selling milk or dairy products, up from 230 in 2002.
- Milk and dairy sales totaled at least \$355 million, up from at least \$171 million five years earlier. *Note, however, that sales data from Elmore, Gem, and Washington Counties were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, so sales totals for both years under-represent actual sales.*
- 4,173 farms produced 1.7 million dry tons of forage crops (hay, etc.) on 470,901 acres of cropland. Of these, 3,000 farms sold \$207 million of forage.
- In addition, 462 farms produced 1.4 million tons of corn silage on 53,623 acres.

Other livestock & animal products:

- 252 farms sold more than 9,163 hogs and pigs for a total of \$886,000. *Note, however, that sales data from Canyon & Elmore Counties were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, so this sales total under-represents actual sales.*
- 245 farms hold an inventory of 4,856 hogs and pigs.
- 673 farms sold a total of \$3.7 million of horses. By contrast, 853 farms sold \$3.6 million in 2002. *Note, however, that 2007 sales data from Washington County were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, so this sales total under-represents actual sales.*
- 682 farms raise laying hens.
- Inventory of layers is 14,426.
- The region has 43 broiler chicken producers. *Sales from several producers were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- 531 farms held an inventory of 60,690 sheep, lambs, and goats; selling at least \$6.2 million worth. *Note, however, that 2007 sales data from Washington County were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality, so this sales total under-represents actual sales.*

Nursery, Landscape and Ornamental Crops:

- 139 farms sold at least \$23 million of ornamental and nursery crops. *Sales data for several counties, however, were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- 16 farms sold Christmas trees.

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

- 446 farms sold at least \$102 million of vegetables and potatoes on 50,069 acres; *sales from several farms were withheld to protect confidentiality.*
- In 2002, vegetable sales totaled \$159 million from 511 farms.
- 119 farms raised potatoes on 23,560 acres.

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

- The region has 262 fruit and nut farms with over 7,039 acres of orchard, compared to 170 fruit farms in 2002.
- *Sales figures for these orchards were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.* 2002 sales totaled at least \$14 million, although *sales data were also suppressed in 2002.*

Principal products of the region:

	\$ millions
Cattle and calves**	\$ 524
Milk & Dairy**	355
Sheep and goats**	6
Horses	4.6
Hogs**	0.8
Poultry**	0.8
Forage	207
Grains**	107
Vegetables**	102
Nursery & Ornamentals**	23
Fruits and Nuts**	14

*Note: ** indicates data were suppressed for one or more counties; nearly \$300 million of livestock sales are unreported. Note that it is quite difficult to perform accurate planning if food production is not known exactly.*

Note that only \$116 million of the \$1.6 billion of commodities sold can potentially be eaten directly by humans without further processing; over 90% of all farm production involves either raising animals or feeding them.

Direct & organic sales:

- 880 farms sell \$5.7 million of food directly to consumers. This is a 36% increase in the number of farms selling direct (649 in 2002), and a 181% increase in direct sales, over \$2 million in 2002. Direct sales account for 0.3% of the region's farm sales, just less than the national average of 0.4%.

- 6,274 Oregon farms sold \$56 million of products direct to consumers in 2007. This is an increase of \$35 million (163%) in direct sales over the five years since 2002 (over 30% per year), even though the number of farms selling direct fell 1.7 percent. In Oregon, direct sales account for 1.2% of all farm sales, three times the national average.
- 2,076 Idaho farms sold \$7.8 million of products direct to consumers in 2007. This is an increase of \$1.9 million (33%) in direct sales over the five years since 2002, while the number of farms selling direct rose 27 percent. In Idaho, direct sales account for 0.13% of all farm sales, one-third of the national average.
- 79 of the region's farms sold \$3 million of organic foods from 23,080 acres.
- 799 of Oregon's farms, and 273 of Idaho farms sell organic, for sales of \$88 million and \$48 million, respectively.
- 48 farms market through community supported agriculture (CSA).
- 500 farms produce added-value products on the farm.

Conservation practices:

- 2,084 farms use rotational management or intensive grazing.
- 1,985 farms use conservation practices.
- 113 farms generate some electricity on the farm.

County Highlights from U.S. Census of Agriculture

Ada County, Idaho, Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- 1,323 farms, a 7% decrease since 2002.
- 191,477 acres in farms, a decrease of 14% since 2002.
- \$153 million of commodities are sold by farms, an increase of 21% over 2002.
- Crop sales total \$45 million (29% of sales).
- Livestock sales total \$108 million (71% of sales).
- Government payments to farmers total \$667,000, a decrease of 44% since 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 10-49 acres, with 573.
- The next most prevalent size is 1-9 acres, with over 511 farms.
- 32 farms are larger than 1,000 acres.
- Ada County ranks 1st in Idaho for nursery and ornamental crops, with \$24 million in sales.
- Cattle and calf sales total \$43 million.
- With hog sales totaling \$642,000, Ada County ranks as the 2nd largest producer in the state.
- Ranks 4th for inventory of layer hens.
- Ranks 4th in Idaho for horse sales.
- Ranks 8th in Idaho for sales of milk and dairy products, with \$63 million.
- Ranks 8th in state for acreage devoted to corn for silage.
- Forage sales total \$11 million.
- Sales of vegetables and potatoes total \$3 million.
- The most prevalent farm size (by sales) is farms selling less than \$1,000 in products, with 403 farms.

Canyon County, Idaho, Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- 2,368 farms, a 6% increase over 2002.
- 260,247 acres in farms, a decrease of 4% since 2002.
- \$421 million of commodities are sold by farms, an increase of 57% over 2002.
- Crop sales total \$174 million (41% of sales).
- Livestock sales total \$247 million (59% of sales).
- Government payments to farmers total \$1.7 million, a decrease of 29% since 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 10-49 acres, with over 914 farms.
- The next most prevalent size is 1-9 acres, with 834 farms.
- 52 farms are larger than 1,000 acres.
- The County ranks 4th in the state for sales of crops.
- The County ranks 5th in the state for sales of livestock and livestock products.
- Canyon County farms rank 5th in Idaho for sales of agricultural commodities.
- Canyon County ranks 1st in Idaho, and 24th in the U.S., for bee colonies, with 17,873.
- Ranks 1st in state for sales of fruits and nuts (*sales were not disclosed to protect confidentiality*).
- Ranks 1st in Idaho for acreage devoted to corn for grain (20,000 acres).
- Ranks 2nd in Idaho for forage sales, with \$56 million.
- Ranks 3rd in state for sales of sheep and goats, with \$2.2 million.
- Ranks 3rd in state for sales of horses, with \$1 million.
- Ranks 3rd in Idaho for sales of nursery and ornamental crops.
- Ranks 4th in Idaho for sales of cattle and calves, with \$95 million.
- Ranks 5th in state for sales of milk and dairy products, with \$144 million.
- Ranks 5th in Idaho for sales of hogs (*sales were not disclosed to protect confidentiality*).
- Ranks 5th in state for sales of poultry, with \$437,000.
- Ranks 8th in Idaho for vegetable and potato sales, with \$48 million.
- Ranks 8th in state for sales of grain; Canyon County farms sold \$40 million of grain.
- Ranks 8th in Idaho for aquaculture (*sales were not disclosed to protect confidentiality*).
- The most prevalent farm size (by sales) is farms selling less than \$1,000 in products, with 644 farms.

Elmore County, Idaho, Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- 381 farms, a 5% increase over 2002.
- 346,550 acres in farms, the same as in 2002.
- \$284 million of commodities are sold by farms, a decrease of 3% since 2002.
- Crop sales total \$72 million (25% of sales).
- Livestock sales total \$213 million (75% of sales).
- Government payments to farmers total \$886,000 — a decrease of 23% since 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 1-9 acres, with 106 farms.
- The next most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 10-49 acres, with 102 farms.
- 52 farms run more than 1,000 acres.
- The County ranks 6th in the state for sales of livestock and livestock products.
- Elmore County farms rank 7th in Idaho for sales of agricultural commodities.
- Ranks 2nd in Idaho for sales of cattle and calves (*sales figures were withheld to protect confidentiality*).
- Ranks 2nd in state for inventory of quail.
- Elmore County farms sold \$40 million of forage crops, ranking 6th in Idaho.
- Ranks 6th in Idaho for acreage devoted to sugarbeets.
- Ranks 7th in state for acreage devoted to forage crops.

- Ranks 7th in Idaho for inventory of cattle and calves.
- Ranks 9th in state for sales of milk and dairy products.
- *Sales of grains, fruits and nuts, vegetables, nursery and ornamentals, cattle and calves, hogs, and milk dairy products were all suppressed in 2007 by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- The most prevalent farm size (by sales) is farms selling less than \$1,000 in products, with 119 farms.

Gem County, Idaho, Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- 822 farms, a 2% increase over 2002.
- 190,757 acres in farms, a decrease of 14% since 2002.
- \$30.8 million of commodities are sold by farms, an increase of 12% over 2002.
- Crop sales total \$12.3 million (40% of sales).
- Livestock sales total \$18.5 million (60% of sales).
- Government payments to farmers total \$571,000, a decrease of 7% since 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 10-49 acres, with 318 farms.
- Next most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 1-9 acres, with 247 farms.
- 28 farms are larger than 1,000 acres.
- Gem County farms ranks 3rd in Idaho for fruit sales, but *sales figures were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- Ranks 5th in state for goat inventory.
- Ranks 6th in Idaho for number of horses.
- Cattle and calf sales total \$11.7 million.
- Milk and dairy sales total \$5.5 million.
- Grain sales total \$4.4 million.
- \$3.4 million of forage crops are sold.
- The most prevalent farm size (by sales) is farms selling less than \$1,000 in products, with 247 farms.
- Bureau of Economic Analysis data show that production costs for farmers in Gem County have exceeded cash receipts since 1995.

Owyhee County, Idaho, Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- 620 farms, a 9% increase over 2002.
- 569,305 acres in farms, nearly the same as in 2002.
- \$206 million of commodities are sold by farms, an increase of 63% over 2002.
- Crop sales total \$52 million (25% of sales).
- Livestock sales total \$154 million (75% of sales).
- Government payments to farmers total \$1.3 million, a decrease of 22% since 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 10-49 acres, with 147 farms.
- Next most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 1-9 acres, with 120 farms.
- 81 farms are 1,000 acres or larger.
- The County ranks 7th in the state for sales of livestock and livestock products.
- Owyhee County farms rank 10th in Idaho for sales of agricultural commodities.
- Ranks 2nd in state for number of bee colonies, with 11,001.
- Ranks 4th in Idaho for acreage devoted to forage crops.
- Ranks 4th in state for acreage planted to corn for grain, and 6th in corn for silage.
- Ranks 5th in state for inventory of cattle and calves.

- Ranks 7th in Idaho for sales of milk and dairy products, with \$86 million.
- Ranks 7th in Idaho for number of horses.
- Ranks 8th in state for inventory of pheasants.
- Ranks 9th in state for sales of cattle and calves, with \$67 million.
- Ranks 9th in Idaho for sales of forage, with \$31 million.
- Ranks 10th in Idaho for acreage planted to soybeans.
- Ranks 10th in state for aquaculture sales.
- County farms sell \$15 million of grain.
- The most prevalent farm size (by sales) is farms selling less than \$1,000 in products, with 133 farms.

Payette County, Idaho, Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- 678 farms, a 6% increase over 2002.
- 166,179 acres in farms, an increase of 8% over 2002.
- \$146 million of commodities are sold by farms, an increase of 37% over 2002.
- Crop sales total \$28 million (19% of sales).
- Livestock sales total \$118 million (81% of sales).
- Government payments to farmers total \$462,000, a decrease of 37% since 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 10-49 acres, with 287 farms.
- Next most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 1-9 acres, with 158 farms.
- 23 farms are larger than 1,000 acres.
- Payette County ranks 8th in Idaho for sales of livestock and livestock products.
- Ranks 2nd in state for sales of fruits and nuts (sales figures were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality).
- Ranks 3rd in Idaho for sales of poultry and eggs (sales figures were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality).
- Ranks 3rd in state in the number of bee colonies, with 9,612
- Ranks 7th in Idaho for sales of cattle and calves, with \$71 million.
- Ranks 7th in state for sales of Christmas trees (sales figures were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality).
- Ranks 7th in Idaho for number of pheasants raised commercially (sales figures were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality).
- Ranks 9th in state for acres devoted to corn for grain.
- Ranks 10th in state for number of horses, with 2,410.
- Ranks 10th in Idaho for sales of hogs, with a total of \$63,000.
- Payette County farms sell \$6.8 million of grain.
- Ranks 11th in the state for sales of milk and dairy products, with \$46 million.
- Sales of forage total \$10.5 million.
- The most prevalent farm size (by sales) is farms selling less than \$1,000 in products, with 183 farms.

Washington County, Idaho, Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- 594 farms, a 20% increase over 2002.
- 417,092 acres in farms, a decrease of 12% since 2002.
- \$43 million of commodities are sold by farms, a decrease of 5% since 2002.
- Crop sales total \$18 million (43% of sales).

- Livestock sales total \$25 million (57% of sales).
- Government payments to farmers total \$878,000, a decrease of 40% since 2002.
- The two most prevalent farm sizes (by acres) are farms of 10-49 acres, and farms of 50-179 acres, with 144 farms each.
- 123 farms are 9 acres or smaller.
- 77 farms are larger than 1,000 acres.
- Washington County ranks 1st in Idaho in sales of horses, but *sales figures were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- Ranks 4th in the state for acreage devoted to onions, with 1,406.
- Ranks 5th in Idaho for number of sheep and lambs, with 15,532.
- Ranks 5th in state for sales of fruits and nuts, but *sales figures were suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- Ranks 7th in state for number of bee colonies, with 5,971.
- Ranks 8th in state for sales of sheep and goats, with \$1.4 million.
- Ranks 9th in Idaho for number of goats, with 732.
- *Sales figures for vegetables, potatoes, nursery and ornamental crops, and milk were also suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.*
- Washington County farms sell \$4.8 million of grain.
- Cattle and calf sales total \$19.6 million.
- Sales of forage totaled \$7.5 million.
- The most prevalent farm size (by sales) is farms selling less than \$1,000 in products, with 163 farms.

Harney County, Oregon, Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- 523 farms, a decrease of one farm since 2002.
- 1.4 million acres in farms, a decrease of 7% since 2002.
- \$51.7 million of commodities are sold by farms, an increase of 46% over 2002.
- Crop sales total \$13.3 million (26% of sales).
- Livestock sales total \$38.4 million (74% of sales).
- Government payments to farmers total \$535,000, a decrease of 47% since 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms over 1,000 acres, with 175.
- The next most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 50-179 acres, with 114.
- 19 farms are 9 acres or smaller.
- Harney County ranks first in Oregon, with 130,885 acres devoted to forage crops.
- Ranks 3rd in the state for cattle and calf inventory, and 6th for sales totaling \$37 million.
- Ranks 5th in Oregon for acres devoted to flowers.
- Forage sales total \$13 million.
- The most prevalent farm size (by sales) is farms selling less than \$1,000 in products, with 95 farms.
- Bureau of Economic Analysis data show that production costs for farmers in Harney County have exceeded cash receipts for all but three years since 1983.

Malheur County, Oregon, Highlights (Agriculture Census 2007)

- 1,250 farms, a 2% decrease since 2002.
- 1.1 million acres in farms, same as in 2002.
- \$307 million of commodities are sold by farms, an increase of 32% over 2002.

- Crop sales total \$114 million (37% of sales).
- Livestock sales total \$192 million (63% of sales).
- Government payments to farmers total \$2 million, an increase of 13% over 2002.
- The most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 50-179 acres, with 350 farms.
- The next most prevalent farm size (by acres) is farms of 10-49 acres, with 293.
- 137 farms are 9 acres or smaller.
- 157 farms are larger than 1,000 acres.
- Cattle and calf sales totaled \$179 million. Malheur County ranks first in Oregon for both sales and inventory of calves and cattle.
- Ranks 1st in Oregon for corn acreage.
- Ranks 1st in U.S. and 1st in state for dry onion acreage.
- Ranks 2nd in Oregon for sales of vegetables, with \$51 million.
- Ranks 2nd in Oregon for pheasant inventory, with 10,000.
- Ranks 3rd in state for the number of bee colonies.
- Ranks 4th in state for sales of grains, with \$28 million.
- Ranks 4th in Oregon for number of horses and ponies.
- Ranks 7th in state for sales of forage, with \$34 million.
- Ranks 7th in state for acres of wheat.
- Ranks 9th in Oregon for sales of milk and dairy products, with \$10.8 million.
- Ranks 9th in state for number of sheep and lambs.
- Ranks 9th in Oregon for sales of poultry, with \$251,000.
- The most prevalent farm size (by sales) is farms selling less than \$1,000 in products, with 188 farms.

County rankings by farm commodity sales (2007)

	\$millions
Canyon	421
Malheur	307
Elmore	284
Owyhee	206
Ada	153
Payette	146
Harney	52
Washington	43
Gem	31

Idaho highlights (Agriculture Census 2007):

- 25,349 farms, up one percent from 2002.
- Total value of farm commodities sold is \$5.6 billion, up 46% from five years earlier.
- \$2.3 billion of farm sales (41%) comes from selling crops.
- \$3.3 billion of farm sales (59%) comes from selling livestock and products.
- Government payments increased 6% over 2002 levels, to \$99 million.
- Ranks 23rd in the nation in farm product sales.
- Ranks 1st in U.S. for acres devoted to potatoes.
- Ranks 2nd in nation for acres devoted to vegetables.
- Ranks 3rd in U.S. for acres of barley.
- Ranks 4th in nation for sales of hay and forage.
- Ranks 5th in U.S. for sales of milk and dairy products, with \$1.8 billion.
- Ranks 5th in nation for sales of vegetables, with \$784 million.
- Ranks 7th in U.S. for sales of sheep and goats (\$27 million).
- Ranks 8th in U.S. for aquaculture sales, with \$56 million.
- Ranks 8th in nation for inventory of sheep.
- Ranks 11th in nation for sales of cattle and calves (\$1.4 billion).
- The most prevalent farm size is 10-49 acres, with 7,497 farms.
- The next most prevalent farm size is 50-179 acres, with over 5,225.
- The third most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with nearly 4,891 farms.
- 2,483 farms are larger than 1,000 acres.
- 2,076 state farms earn \$7.8 million selling products directly to consumers, \$1.9 million (33%) more than in 2002, when 1,632 farms sold \$5.9 million of products directly.
- Direct food sales from farms account for more sales than the state's 20th-largest crop, cherries.
- 273 Idaho farms sell \$48 million of organic products.
- 299 farms devote 111,781 acres to organic production. This includes 75,472 acres of harvested cropland, 29,356 acres of pastureland, and 23,210 acres on 167 farms undergoing organic conversion.
- 273 of these organic farms sell \$48 million of organic products, including \$16 million of crops (this may include ornamental and greenhouse crops). Sales of livestock and poultry and related products were not disclosed by USDA to protect confidentiality.
- 136 farms market through community supported agriculture (CSA).
- 1,335 state farms produce value-added products.
- 5,745 farms use conservation methods.
- 5,410 farms practice rotational management or intensive grazing.
- 337 farms generate energy or electricity on the farm.
- 6,946 farms receive irrigation water from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Idaho's top 24 farm products in 2008 (Economic Research Service)

See chart on next page

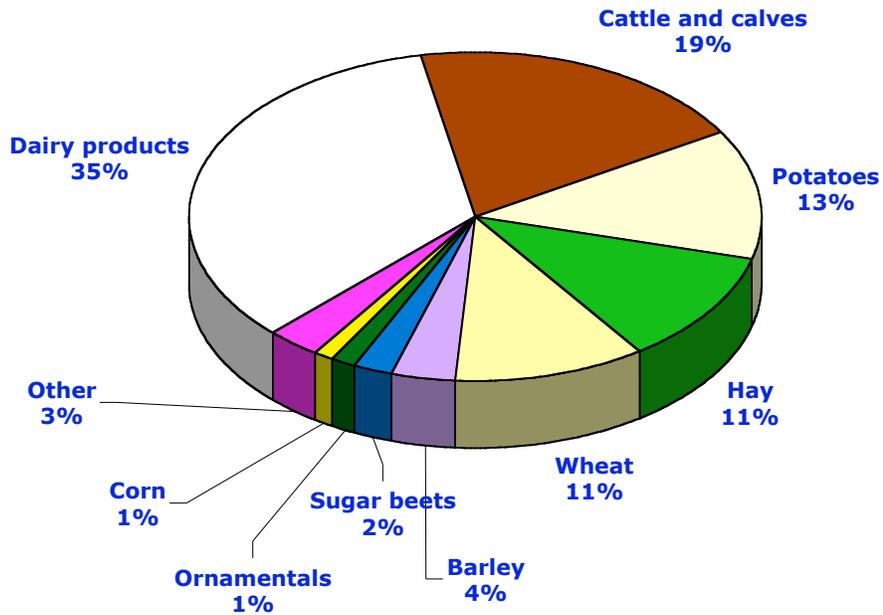
	\$ millions
1 Dairy products	2,100
2 Cattle and calves	1,183
3 Potatoes	781
4 Hay	676
5 Wheat	666
6 Barley	217
7 Sugar beets	132
8 Greenhouse/nursery	89
9 Corn	61
10 Dry beans	53
11 Onions	31
12 Hops	29
13 Mint	25
14 Sheep and lambs	19
15 Apples	16
16 Dry peas	15
17 Chicken eggs	14
18 Lentils	13
19 Hogs	10
20 Cherries	6
21 Honey	5
22 Peaches	5
23 Oats	4
24 Wool	2

Note that at \$7.8 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more than the value of the 20th ranking product, cherries.

Idaho's top 24 farm products in 2008 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page

Top products raised by Idaho farmers, 2008



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

Oregon highlights (Agriculture Census 2007):

- 38,553 farms, four percent less than in 2002.
- Total value of farm commodities sold is \$4.4 billion, up 37% from five years earlier.
- \$2.9 billion of farm sales (68%) earned by selling crops.
- \$1.4 billion of farm sales (32%) earned by selling livestock and products.
- Government payments increased 47% over 2002 levels, to \$76 million.
- Ranks 28th in the nation in farm product sales.
- Ranks 1st in U.S. for both sales (\$117 million) and acres devoted to Christmas trees.
- Ranks 1st in nation for acreage devoted to grass, sod, and grass seed.
- Ranks 3rd in U.S. for sales of grass, sod, nursery crops and ornamentals (\$989 million).
- Ranks 3rd in nation for sales of hay and forage (\$698 million).
- Ranks 4th in U.S. for sales of fruits and nuts, with \$516 million.
- Ranks 9th in nation for inventory of sheep.
- Ranks 9th in U.S. for acreage planted in vegetables.
- Ranks 9th in U.S. for sales of sheep and goats (\$21 million).
- Ranks 10th in nation for sales of vegetables (\$339 million).
- Cattle and calf sales total \$800 million.
- Milk and dairy sales total \$402 million.
- The most prevalent farm size is 10-49 acres, with 14,142 farms.
- The next most prevalent farm size is 1-9 acres, with 9,546 farms.
- The third most prevalent farm size is 50-179 acres, with 7,430.
- 2,564 farms manage more than 1,000 acres.
- 6,274 state farms earn \$56 million selling products directly to consumers, \$35 million (163%) more than in 2002, when 6,383 farms sold \$21 million of products directly.
- Direct food sales from farms account for more sales than the state's 13th-largest crop, hazelnuts.
- 799 Oregon farms sell \$88 million of organic products.
- 933 farms devoted 92,405 acres to organic production. This includes 45,834 acres of harvested cropland, 41,884 acres of pastureland, and 16,175 acres on 470 farms undergoing organic conversion.
- 799 of these organic farms sell \$88 million of organic 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).
- 2,807 state farms produce value-added products.
- 9,327 farms use conservation methods.
- 9,694 farms practice rotational management or intensive grazing.
- 631 farms generate energy or electricity on the farm.
- 3,799 farms receive irrigation water from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Oregon's top 24 farm products in 2008 (Economic Research Service)

See chart on next page

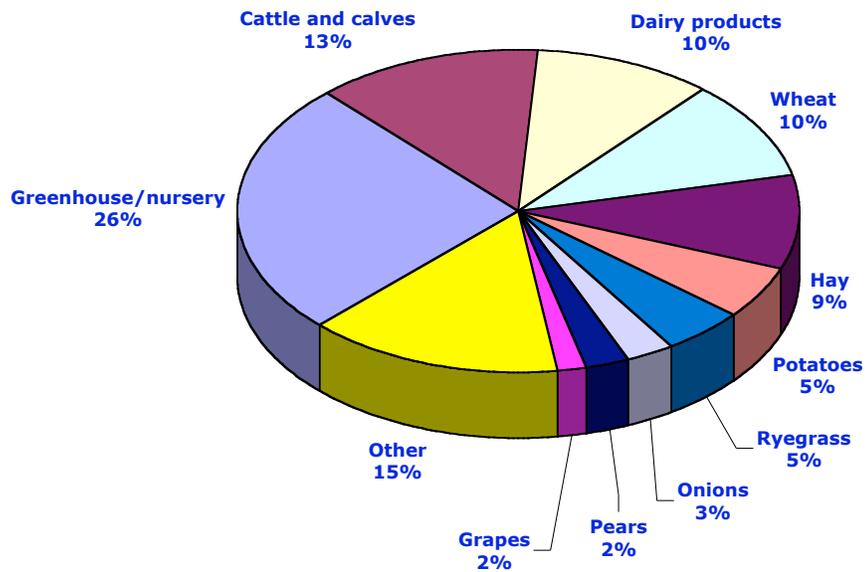
		\$ millions
1	Nursery & Greenhouse	1,011
2	Cattle and calves	517
3	Dairy products	409
4	Wheat	400
5	Hay	365
6	Potatoes	208
7	Ryegrass	197
8	Onions	103
9	Pears	97
10	Grapes	71
11	Chicken eggs	65
12	Cherries	59
13	Hazelnuts (filberts)	52
14	Blueberries	49
15	Aquaculture	47
16	Hops	38
17	Cranberries	37
18	Corn, sweet	35
19	Apples	33
20	Bluegrass, kentucky	32
21	Orchardgrass	30
22	Blackberry group	30
23	Beans, snap	26
24	Corn	25
25	Mint	25

Note that at \$56 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more than the value of the 13th ranking product, hazelnuts.

Oregon's top 24 farm products in 2008 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page

Oregon's Top 25 Farm Products, 2008



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (Bureau of Economic Analysis):

Note: Bureau of Economic Analysis farm income data may differ from Agriculture Census data.

Greater Treasure Valley farmers sell \$1.8 billion of commodities per year (1987-2008 average), spending \$1.6 billion to raise them, for an average gain of \$221 million per year. The farm sector as a whole has earned a surplus of nearly \$5 billion over that 22-year span from raising commodities. Note that these sales figures compiled by the BEA differ somewhat from data recorded by the USDA Agriculture Census (see above).

However, 62% of the region's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2007 (Agriculture Census), even after federal subsidies are taken into account.

The region's farmers and ranchers earned \$94 million more by selling commodities in 2008 than they earned in 1969 (in 2008 dollars). Sales of livestock and related products have risen since 1996, after declining steadily over the previous eight years, while crop income has stayed fairly constant since 1969. The most steadily increasing cost of production is feed costs, which rose from \$166 million in 2001 to \$339 million in 2007 and 2008.

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$72 million per year of farm-related income — primarily rental income for land and insurance payments (22-year average for 1987-2006). Federal farm support payments average \$31 million per year for the entire region over the same years.

Greater Treasure Valley consumers (2008):

Greater Treasure Valley consumers spend \$1.87 billion buying food each year, including \$1.10 billion for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the region. \$5.6 million of food products (0.3% of farm cash receipts, and 0.3% of local consumer needs) are sold by 880 farmers directly to consumers, but not always to local consumers, since this includes internet sales.

Estimated change in net assets for all households in the region was a combined loss of \$2.4 billion in 2008 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on the region's residents as they pay for food.

Farm and food economy summary:

Farmers gain \$221 million each year producing food commodities, spending \$600 million buying inputs from external suppliers, for a net outflow of \$400 million from the region's economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$1.7 billion buying food from outside. When this is added to farm production losses, total loss to the region is \$2 billion of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to more than the value of all commodities raised in the region.

Greater Treasure Valley: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Residents purchase \$1.87 billion of food per year, \$1.10 billion of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 236
Fruits & vegetables	210
Cereals and bakery products	140
Dairy products	126
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	388

If the region’s consumers purchased only 15% of the food they need for home use directly from local farmers, this would produce \$165 million of new farm income in the region.

Idaho: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Idaho purchase \$4.1 billion of food each year; \$2.4 billion to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 522
Fruits & vegetables	465
Cereals and bakery products	310
Dairy products	278
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	857

Ontario, Oregon: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Residents purchase \$146 million of food per year, \$86 million of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 18.4
Fruits & vegetables	16.4
Cereals and bakery products	10.9
Dairy products	9.8
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	30.2

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>

Centers for Disease Control: Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System

BRFSS <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss-smart/>

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Big Cities Health Inventory <http://www.naccho.org/>

For more information:

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

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

To read the original *Finding Food in Farm Country* study from Southeast Minnesota (written by Ken Meter and Jon Rosales for the Community Design Center and the Southeast Minnesota 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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