

Top crops

Sunday, August 10, 2008

The Oregonian

In May, the state Agriculture Department reported that Oregon's commodity sales hit an all-time high of \$4.9 billion in 2007, a 6.5 percent increase from the past record of \$4.6 billion in 2006. Rising food prices were part of the reason for the increase. Here are the state's top-producing crops:

Greenhouse and nursery products: \$1.039 billion

Grass seed: \$507 million

Cattle and calves: \$465 million

Hay: \$459 million

Milk: \$408 million

Wheat: \$360 million

Potatoes: \$146 million

Christmas trees: \$114 million

Pears: \$84 million

Wine grapes: \$68 million

Source: Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service

By the numbers

39,500 Farms in Oregon 98 percent Family-owned and -operated farms, with about 10 percent organized as partnerships or family corporations 1 percent Nonfamily corporate operations \$10,000 or less Annual sales for the increasing number of small farming operations that make up about 70 percent of Oregon's farms and ranches. This group generates less than 2 percent of total agricultural output/sales, yet owns 13 percent of agricultural land. \$10,000 to \$250,000 Annual sales of the midsize grower, who is shrinking -- at less than 25 percent of all farms 2,250 Number of full-time large commercial family farming operations that make up less than 6 percent of all Oregon farms, yet produce nearly 80 percent of total sales

Source: Oregon Department of Agriculture