

# Oregon

*Pacific Northwest organic leader: top-ten nationally in hazelnut, berries, grain, and dairy*



A FARMER'S TOOLKIT  
State Module | August 2026

Oregon ranks 12th nationally with 836 certified organic operations and 308,025 certified acres. Oregon is one of the nation's most mature and diverse organic states, with organic production spanning the Willamette Valley's intensive vegetable, berry, and hazelnut operations; eastern Oregon's vast organic grain and rangeland beef; and a coastal dairy and specialty crop sector. Portland's food culture and the state's deep cooperative infrastructure create exceptional market access and organizational strength. Oregon Tilth, one of the nation's oldest organic certifiers, and Oregon State University's organic research programs are national leaders.

|                                    |                                   |                                |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>836</b><br>CERTIFIED OPERATIONS | <b>308,025</b><br>CERTIFIED ACRES | <b>\$273M</b><br>ORGANIC SALES | <b>Top 10</b><br>U.S. ORGANIC STATE |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

## STATE PROFILE AT A GLANCE

|                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Certified operations               | <b>836 (12th nationally)</b> |
| Certified organic acres            | <b>308,025</b>               |
| Organic sales value                | <b>\$273 million</b>         |
| Worker employment vs. conventional | <b>+27%</b>                  |
| Split operations                   | <b>52% of farms</b>          |

## OPPORTUNITIES & BARRIERS

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Expand certified organic hazelnut acreage to meet rapidly growing demand from organic chocolate, confectionery, and natural food ingredient manufacturers.
- Develop eastern Oregon organic grain processing capacity to capture more value from the region's substantial certified organic wheat and barley production.
- Grow organic agritourism and direct-market farm operations in the Willamette Valley to serve Portland's world-class food culture and tourist economy.

### TOP ORGANIC COMMODITIES

- ▶ **Hazelnuts:** Oregon grows 99% of U.S. hazelnuts; organic for premium buyers.
- ▶ **Berries & Vegetables:** Willamette Valley organic berries and vegetables for NW markets.
- ▶ **Wheat & Grain:** eastern Oregon organic wheat and pulses supply regional processors.
- ▶ **Dairy & Beef:** organic coastal dairy and rangeland beef supply regional co-ops.

### BARRIERS

- High land values in the Willamette Valley create significant entry barriers for beginning organic producers seeking to farm in the state's prime agricultural zone.
- Eastern Oregon's remote geography and limited organic processing infrastructure increase transportation costs and reduce premium capture for organic grain producers.
- Labor availability and cost in specialty crop regions create ongoing operational challenges, particularly for harvest-intensive organic berry and vegetable operations.

## KEY TAKEAWAY

Oregon's organic sector is a national model of diversity, depth, and organizational strength. From Willamette Valley berries and hazelnuts to eastern Oregon grain and rangeland beef, Oregon has built a complete organic ecosystem supported by world-class certifiers, research institutions, and farmer organizations.

## Resources for Farmers

Oregon organic farmers are supported by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State University Extension, Oregon Tilth Certified Organic, and the Northwest TOPP region. These organizations deliver certification, research, technical assistance, and market development resources across Oregon's diverse agricultural landscape.

### Oregon Department of Agriculture

#### STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS

- Organic Certification Cost Share: federal pass-through, up to \$750/yr
- Oregon Dept of Agriculture accredited certifier and cost-share program administration
- NRCS Oregon: EQIP Organic Initiative, RCPP, and Organic Transition Assistance programs
- Oregon agricultural development grants for organic processing and value-added projects

[oregon.gov/ODA](https://oregon.gov/ODA)

### Oregon State University Extension

#### RESEARCH, EXTENSION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Organic hazelnut, berry, vegetable, grain, dairy, and beef research and extension
- OSU Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems organic resources
- Willamette Valley and eastern Oregon organic systems on-farm demonstration programs
- 36-county extension network delivering local organic technical assistance statewide

[extension.oregonstate.edu](https://extension.oregonstate.edu)

### Oregon Tilth Certified Organic

#### FARMER ADVOCACY & PEER LEARNING

- One of the nation's oldest and most respected organic certification organizations
- Oregon Tilth certifies thousands of operations across Oregon and nationally
- Annual Oregon Tilth Organic Farmer Conference and producer education programs
- Organic policy advocacy, research support, and farmer community building statewide

[tilth.org](https://tilth.org)

### Northwest TOPP (OTCO-led)

#### MENTORSHIP & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Serves AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY
- Paid organic mentor matching for hazelnut, berry, grain, dairy, and beef operations
- Workshops on organic transition, Pacific Northwest pest management, and certification
- Market access and Pacific Northwest food hub connections for Oregon organic producers

[organictransition.org/region/northwest](https://organictransition.org/region/northwest)

#### DID YOU KNOW? OREGON

**Oregon produces over 99% of all hazelnuts grown in the United States, and a growing number of these orchards are certified organic, making Oregon the sole domestic source of organic hazelnuts for major chocolate and natural food brands.** Organic hazelnut demand is surging as consumers seek certified organic versions of hazelnut-chocolate spreads, baking ingredients, and plant-based snacks. Oregon's Willamette Valley hazelnut growers who pursue organic certification gain access to premium buyers with no domestic competition. OSU Extension's hazelnut research program and Northwest TOPP's mentorship are helping producers navigate the transition to certified organic hazelnut production.

#### KEY SOURCES

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2022 Census of Agriculture. USDA NASS, 2024.

Oregon Department of Agriculture. Organic Certification Program. ODA, 2023.

Oregon Tilth Certified Organic. Annual Report and Programs. Oregon Tilth, 2023.

Oregon State University Extension. Organic Agriculture Research. OSU Extension, 2023.