

Farm Facts 2008-Sited from Oregon Ag in the Classroom

Pecans were a staple food for some Native American tribes
Oregon grass seed farmers produce 60% of the world's supply
Soft pretzels were invented by accident.
Carrots taste better when grown in cool weather.
"Potash" is another word for potassium.
Scientists have identified 70 different types of soil.
Most phosphorous in our bodies is in our teeth and bones.
Worms breathe through their skin.
The US grows more soy beans than any other country.
Pecans were first cultivated in the US in 1770.
Grass plants are 70 to 80% water.
Earthworms have five hearts.
Carrots were first grown as a medicine, not as a food.
Potassium is found in our major organs, skin and muscles.
The edible part of a carrot is its roots.
The US produces 80% of the world's pecans.
Worms help to improve the soil.
Insects have lived on earth at least 400 million years.
Soil is formed from rocks and decaying plants and animals.
The US produces 60% of the world's soy beans.
Potassium helps people and plants fight diseases.
2.5 acres of land may be home to 2 million worms.
Honey is 25% sweeter than sugar.
Some mushrooms grow in the dark.
Potatoes were cultivated by the Incas 4,000 years ago.
Rice is eaten by nearly half of the world's population.
Honey never spoils and can be stored indefinitely.
Pears ripen best off the tree.
Honey is one of the oldest foods in existence.
Potatoes are high in vitamin C and potassium.
Bees have been producing honey for 150 million years.
Rice has been cultivated for about 10,000 years.
"Pomme de Terre" is French for potatoe.
Pears don't change color as they ripen.
Mushrooms are a great source of anti-oxidants.
Honey bees have five eyes.
The largest potato ever grown weighed over 18 lbs.
Potatoes grow underground.
Bees have four wings.
The edible part of a potato is a "tuber".
Honey helps heal open wounds and combats infections.
Hood River County grows more pears than any other US county.
Bees must fly 55,000 miles to produce a pound of honey.
Potatoes are the most widely cultivated vegetable in the world.
Jack O' Lanterns originated in Ireland.
Salmon have a much better sense of smell than dogs.
Bacon comes from pigs.
The first breakfast cereal contained sugar, milk and popcorn.
Cultivation of spinach began in the US around 1806.
Pumpkins can be orange, white, blue, or green.

We eat about 15 pounds of seafood each year.
A young female pig is called a "gilt".
Pumpkins are a kind of squash.
Clams have no brain or eyes.
Giving birth to baby pigs is called "farrowing"
The state cookie of Pennsylvania is chocolate chip.
Pig fat is used to make crayons, cosmetics, and chalk.
Fish farming is called "aquaculture".
Pumpkin pulp can be used to treat burns.
Almost all salmon die after spawning.
The world's largest litter of pigs was 37 piglets!
Pumpkins originated in Central America.
Clams eat plankton.
There are over 180 species of pigs.
Female salmon can lay thousands of eggs in one nest.
Pigs are a source of about 40 different medicines.
Early Romans thought eating mint would increase intelligence.
65 million poinsettias are sold each year.
Christmas trees take 7-10 years to mature.
Hazelnuts are rich in protein and calcium
Oregon ranks #1 in the U.S. for Christmas trees.
Hazelnuts were once thought to cure colds.
The red "flowers" on a poinsettia are actually leaves.
2,000 Christmas trees can be planted on one acre.
Clarence Birdseye developed a way of deep-freezing foods.
100% of all U.S. grown hazelnuts come from Oregon.
Oregon ranks #1 in the U.S. for Dungeness crab.
40% of U.S. grown almonds are used for chocolate candy.
California is the Pacific NW's largest Christmas tree market.
The poinsettia is actually a tropical tree.
Smelling mint may increase concentration.
25% of U.S. grown peanuts are used for candy.
92% of Pacific NW Christmas trees are exported.
Hazelnut trees bloom in the winter.
Poinsettias can grow to be over 10 feet tall.
The Douglas fir is Oregon's state tree.
Trees carry their seeds in cones.
Poinsettias are not poisonous.
Peppermint aids in digestion.
Trees absorb a lot of sound and heat.
Louis Pasteur invented the principle of pasteurization.
Oregon's state nut is the hazelnut.
An 18 oz. package of Quaker oats contains 26,000 rolled oats.
Soup may have been the world's first fast food.
Green tea can help prevent heart disease and some cancers.
GPS is short for global positioning system.
Yamhill is the top county for grape production in Oregon.
Watermelon is 92% water.
Onions have been cultivated for over 5,000 years.
Americans buy more oatmeal in January than any other month.
Americans eat 10 billion bowls of soup a year.
Tea is the world's second most popular beverage behind water.
GPS helps farmers track crop yields as they harvest crops.

Watermelons must be harvested by hand.
The average American eats 21 lbs. of onions a year.
80% of Americans have oatmeal in their cupboards.
Colonists in Boston began drinking tea around 1670.
John F. Kennedy's favorite soup was fish chowder.
GPS uses satellites to pinpoint locations on earth.
Watermelon is grown in Oregon's Columbia Basin.
Onions can be red, yellow, or white.
Oatmeal cookies are the number one use of oatmeal.
Cereal is the number two use of oatmeal.
Tea is a good source of antioxidants.
Watermelons are only picked when ripe.
There are less than 1,000 onion farmers in the U.S.
The most popular oatmeal topping is milk.
There are about 7,000 cherries on an average tart cherry tree.
Chocolate comes from the cocoa bean.
Pomology is the science of growing apples.
It takes about 250 cherries to make a pie.
The Spanish brought apples to Mexico in the 16th century.
Cocoa beans grow in trees.
The first cultivated apples were in Boston.
One cherry tree could make 28 pies.
About 110 million roses are bought for Valentine's day.
Cyrus McCormick patented the reaper in 1834.
FFA officer teams may travel 30,000 miles during their year.
There are 47 proficiency areas for FFA members.
There are 103 FFA chapters in Oregon.
Apple trees begin to bear fruit when they are 4-5 years old.
Chocolate is America's favorite flavor.
Over 2,500 varieties of apples are grown in the U.S.
Tart cherries are used primarily for baking.
The largest chocolate bar ever made weighed 5,026 lbs.
Johnny Appleseed's real name was John Chapman.
Johnny Appleseed planted trees in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.
Greenhouse and nursery are #1 in Oregon agriculture.
Frozen food was commercially sold in the 1930s.
Eat 5 servings of fruits and veggies each day.
Asparagus means "shoot" or "sprout".
Cooked broccoli is more nutritious than raw broccoli.
Oregon is 96,000 square miles
Rhubarb is a vegetable.
46% of Oregon is covered by forests.
Eat 3 oz. of whole grains each day.
One asparagus plant may live for 25 years.
Broccoli is a member of the mustard family.
John McLoughlin is known as the father of Oregon.
Clackamas is the top county for greenhouse and nursery production.
Ontario is one of the nation's largest shippers of onions.
The Oregon Trail began in 1841.
Asparagus plants are perennials.
Rhubarb leaves are toxic.
The Oregon Trail was a 2,000 mile journey.
315,000 pioneers traveled the Oregon Trail from 1840-1860.

The Willamette River flows south to north, which is rare.
Newberg was once home to President Herbert Hoover.
Cattle and calves is the #2 agricultural industry in Oregon.
Strawberries were cultivated in ancient Rome.
81% of U.S. households own a barbecue grill.
The egg shell has around 17,000 tiny pores over its surface.
Each American consumes about 30 lbs of hamburger a year.
Historians believe that 15th century Aztecs made salsa.
Technically, tomatoes are a fruit.
Agriculture is the only essential industry.
Malheur is the top county for beef production.
Hamburgers are the most common barbecued food.
Egg yolks are one of few foods that contain vitamin D.
Burgers account for 40% of all sandwiches sold.
Americans spend 7.1% of their income on food.
An average tomato contains 35 calories.
Some salsas are made primarily of fruit.
There are 2.13 million farms in America.
350 slices of pizza are eaten every second.
Shampoo, soap, and toothpaste come from agriculture.
Cosmetics, lotions, and nail polish come from agriculture.
Tomatoes were once thought to be poisonous.
President Johnson was the first to host a barbecue at the White House.
In WWI, hamburgers were called Liberty sandwiches.
Tomatoes are thought to be first cultivated by the Aztecs.
"Blue" cheeses are made using penicillium molds.
90% of our food comes from 20 species of plants.
About 60% of U.S. roses are grown in California.
Baby turkeys are called "poults".
Cheese was first made over 4,000 years ago in Asia.
There are 350,000 species of plants on earth.
Red roses signify love, courage, passion, & respect.
Most domestic turkeys are so heavy they can't fly.
Wild turkeys can fly.
Soil contains 13 of the 16 nutrients a plant needs.
A dairy cow drinks a bath tub full of water a day.
Deep pink roses signify gratitude & thankfulness.
Wild turkeys spend nights in low branches of trees.
Cheese is high in protein and a good source of calcium.
A dairy cow eats 30 lbs of hay a day.
France produces more types of cheese than any country.
Milk is the official beverage of Oregon.
White roses signify secrecy, silence, innocence, and charm.
Ben Franklin wanted the turkey as our national bird.
Dairy cows can produce 125 lbs of saliva a day.
A thornless rose signifies love at first sight.
Wild turkeys eat acorns, seeds, berries, and small insects.
There are nearly 900 acres of greenhouses for rose production.
Holsteins are the most dairy cow.
Native Americans flavored baked beans with bear fat.
Blueberries won't ripen once they are picked.
The average American eats 50 hot dogs a year.
The first ice cream parlor in the U.S. was opened in 1776.

“Pasta” is Italian for paste or dough.
Wheat is grown on more land area than any other crop.
Raspberries used to be called hindberries.
There are over 700 varieties of peaches.
Native Americans taught Pilgrims how to make baked beans.
Blueberries can help enhance your memory.
The hot dog was invented in Germany in 1484.
Americans consume most ice cream in the world.
The average person in Italy eats about 55 lbs. of pasta a year.
There are about 50 kernels in a head of wheat.
There are over 200 varieties of raspberries.
Some Chinese varieties of peaches are flat.
The navy bean is the state vegetable of Massachusetts.
36 million pounds of Oregon blueberries were harvested in 2006.
1 of 5 people share their ice cream with their dog or cat.
“Fettuccini” is Italian for ribbons.
A bushel of wheat weighs 60 lbs.
Raspberries are composed of several tiny “druplets”.
Nectarines are peaches without fuzzy skin.
There are over 600 different shapes of pasta.
Blueberries can help strengthen blood vessels.
The peach is a member of the rose family.
The cotton gin was invented in 1793.
Mustard may have been first cultivated around 3,000 B.C.
Grass seed is used for erosion control.
Over 1 million different varieties of insects exist.
Blackberries can be used to ease nausea.
Oregon grass seed is exported to 60 countries.
There are about 800 kernels on one ear of corn.
Nitrogen is in all living cells.
Lanolin from sheep wool is used in lotions & cosmetics.
The iron plow was invented in 1797.
Mustard was known for medicinal uses before culinary uses.
Bentgrass is used for golf courses and home lawns.
Only 25% of insects are considered harmful.
In 1868, steam powered tractors were introduced.
Oregon grass seed is used for pastures, lawns and parks.
An acre will produce enough wheat for 2,500 loaves of bread.
On bushel of corn will sweeten over 400 cans of soda.
Orchardgrass is used for grazing animals.
One pound of wool can make 10 miles of yarn.
The first bread was made over 12,000 years ago.
Tall fescue is a draught tolerant grass.
Corn is used to produce gasoline.
Sheep have poor eyesight, but excellent hearing.
Perennial Rye Grass is the world’s most popular grass seed.
Blackberries are high in fiber.
Bread is eaten by people of every race, culture and religion.
Grasses use photosynthesis to clean the air.