

# Cove-Union Farm Loop



## Driving directions & highlights

From the first bright-green spring grass on the valley foothills until brilliant fall leaves abound, the Cove-Union Farm Loop is a perfect way to enjoy some of the abundant farms and ranches that are the heart and soul of the Grande Ronde Valley. Dozens of farmers, ranchers, and gardeners and both communities have a rich history connected to agriculture. This self-guided tour includes portions of the Grande Tour Scenic Route and Grande Tour Scenic Bikeway.

Starting in Island City, Oregon, at the junction of State Highways 82/237, proceed on Highway 82, crossing the Grande Ronde River and railroad tracks. Continue on Highway 82 toward Imbler and Elgin for about 5 miles and turn right onto Market Lane, at the mint field. Mint grown here is distilled to oil, which is used to flavor mouthwash, chewing gum, toothpaste, pharmaceuticals, and confectionery and aromatherapy products. Watch for roadside signs, identifying crops growing in the adjacent fields. Market Lane becomes Lower Cove Road. Follow Lower Cove Road to Cove, watching for farm stops and points of interest.

### Cove

Cove history and activities: [coveoregon.org](http://coveoregon.org)

Cove has been a fruit production center for over 100 years. Today, approximately 500 acres of commercial orchards, planted mostly to sweet cherries and peaches, grace the hillsides above town. Cherries are in bloom in spring, ripening in early summer and ready to eat during July. The Cove Cherry Fair is held in August to celebrate the crop. Cove is also home to small-scale livestock production and processing; field crops, and produce growers make up the remaining farm operations. Follow the map and watch for farm loop signs for stops and points of interest. Continue on Hwy 237 to Union.

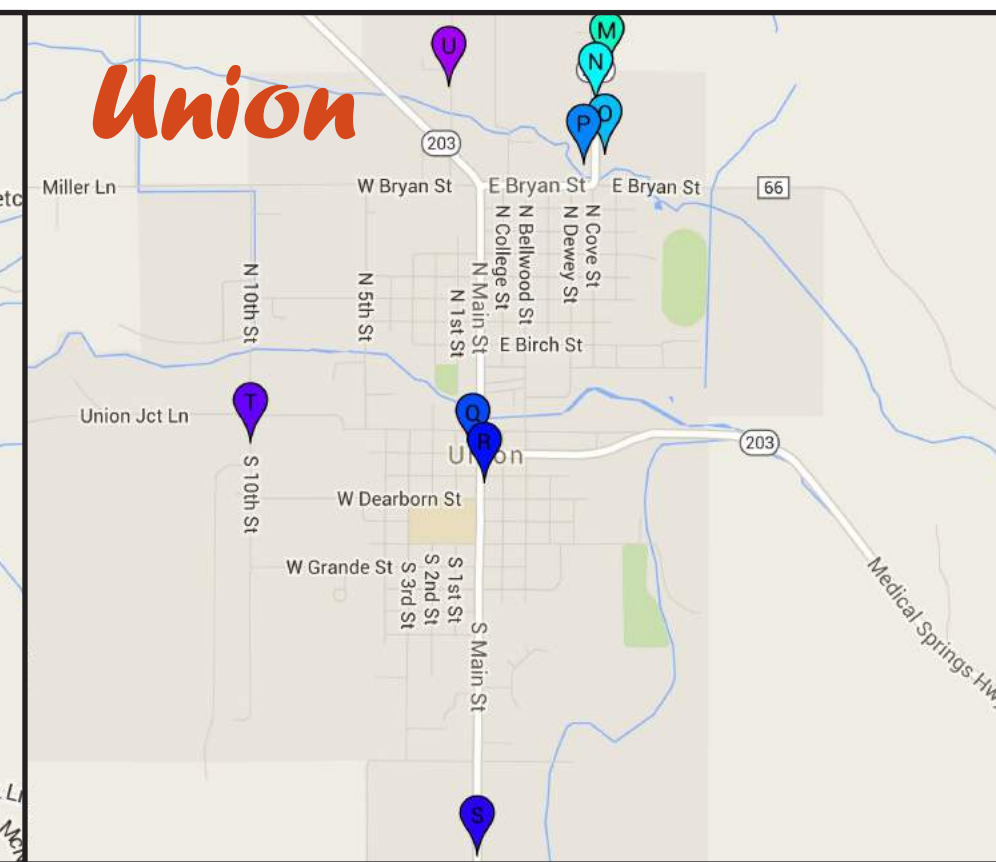
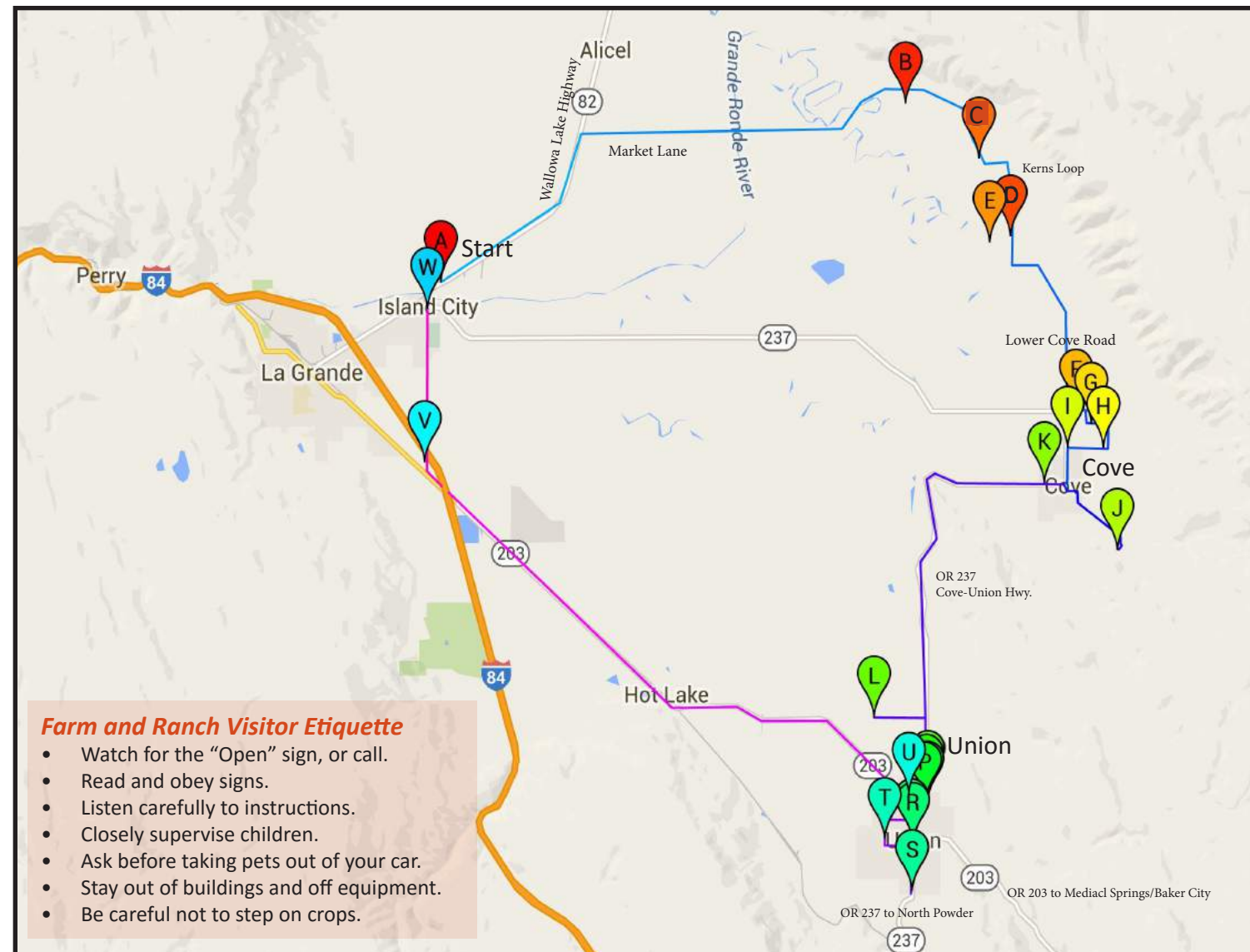


### Union

Union history and activities: [grvoutskirts.com](http://grvoutskirts.com)

In the quaint Victorian era town of Union there are lots of opportunities to get out of your car, explore and have a meal or snack. Experience the town's charm, then head north toward La Grande on OR 203. Along the way, you'll pass Hot Lake, a restored historic landmark on your left. Continue on OR 203 under the freeway, then take McAlister Road across the railroad tracks, past the livestock auction yard and back to Island City. We hope you enjoy the Cove-Union Farm Loop!

- Kauffman's Market
- Pigtail Pork
- Mt. Harris Pastures Poultry
- The Sister Shic
- Pick'N Patch
- The Plantworks
- Folly Farm
- Rainbow Orchards
- Nella Mae's Farm
- Apple Spring Farm
- Martens Farm
- Grande Ronde Goat Dairy
- Wing's U-Pick Corn
- Bar MD Cattle Co.
- Dora's Garden
- Wred Wiggler Worm Wranch
- Hometown Hardware Store
- Union County Museum
- B.O.B. Grass-Fed Beef
- EO Ag Experiment Station
- Platz Family Produce
- Intermountain Livestock
- D & B Supply



## Farm Stops & Points of Interest

**A) Kauffman's Market** (541) 663-8404  
10214 Wallowa Lake Hwy 82, Island City  
Featuring packaged and bulk goods, deli-style sandwiches, baked goods, homemade soup, and regional produce. Lunches to go. Also, check out Pioneer West, next door.

**B) Pigtail Pork** (541) 568-4671  
67750 Lower Cove Road, Cove  
Butcher shop. Award-winning bacon, dry-cured sausage, hams, sausages, and pepperoni snack sticks. Visits by appointment, only. Call to order.

**C) Mt. Harris Pastures Poultry Farm**  
(541) 805-1828 68011 Lower Cove Road  
Small flocks of pasture-raised meat chickens and turkeys. Raised seasonally with natural and organic feeds. Feel free to call or message for an appointment to check out the farm operation, [mtharrispastures@gmail.com](mailto:mtharrispastures@gmail.com), [facebook.com/mtharrispastures](https://www.facebook.com/mtharrispastures)

**D) The Sister Shic** (541) 910-5618  
68389 Kerns Loop, Cove  
The Sister Shic --shabby chic crafters who have a little "Shabulous" festival each fall that includes a hay ride and local farmers offering home grown produce and products from the year's bounty such as jams, pepper sauce, and dried herbs. [facebook.com/SisterShic](https://www.facebook.com/SisterShic)

**E) Pick'N Patch** (541) 786-2421  
62816 Lower Cove Rd, Cove  
Open all of October. See the corn maze and choose from a wide variety of pumpkins to take home and enjoy. [facebook.com/PickNPatchFarm/](https://www.facebook.com/PickNPatchFarm/)

**Cove Grange Hall**  
The Grange is a fraternal organization, started in the U.S. in 1867, that encourages families to band together to promote the economic and political well being of agriculture communities. The Cove Grange is currently inactive. The Farm Loop also passes Fort Union Grange on McAlister Road, which meets monthly, (541) 963-6871.

**F) The PlantWorks** (541) 963-7870  
69465 Lantz Lane, Cove  
Native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and wetland plants. Expert advice on what to plant where! [theplantworkslc.com](https://www.theplantworkslc.com).

**G) Folly Farm** (541) 805-8563  
67364 Squire Loop, Cove  
A micro-farm and you-pick garden focusing on gourmet garlic and open-pollinated heirloom vegetables. Just stop in or call for an appointment for your first visit and they'll show you how things work. During growing season, the farm is open during the day for you-pick kitchen veggies, and by appointment for garlic, canned goods, and bulk harvests when available. [follyfarmoregon.com](https://www.follyfarmoregon.com)

**H) Rainbow Orchards** (541) 910-0924 or 1338  
69615 Antles Lane, Cove  
Organic Lambert or Queen Anne Cherries. You pick or "rent-a-tree." [facebook.com/Rainbow-Orchard-organic-cherries](https://www.facebook.com/Rainbow-Orchard-organic-cherries)

**I) Nella Mae's Farm** (541) 910-4098 or (541) 805-8645  
1006 Antles Lane, Cove  
Nella Mae's farmstand, located at the corner of Antles Lane and Highway 237, offers local fruits, vegetables, and more. The stand is open 24/7 from March-Oct. Self-serve on the honor system; leave your cash or check payment in the box. Stop by the farm at 69361 Antles Lane for a tour when the gate is open. [facebook.com/nellamaesfarm](https://www.facebook.com/nellamaesfarm)



**Cove School Garden**  
Main and Haefer Lane, Cove  
The student-run facility provides vegetables, eggs, pumpkin patches, and corn mazes. [facebook.com/Cove-FFA-School-Garden](https://www.facebook.com/Cove-FFA-School-Garden)

**Cove Warm Springs Pool** (541) 568-4890  
907 Water Street  
An historic landmark, these geothermal springs have warmed the Cove pool continuously for more than 75 years. Picnic area and RV spaces. [coveoregon.org/cove-warm-spring-pool/](https://www.coveoregon.org/cove-warm-spring-pool/)

**J) Apple Spring Farm** (541) 429-5124  
60024 Thew Loop, Cove  
An organic micro farm offering vegetable and flower starts in the spring, fresh vegetables, fruit, berries and flowers, grown with care in their garden, and organic free range eggs. Fresh produce and starts are sold from an on-site farmstand. The lovely setting invites you to linger a while. Open June - Oct., 10 to 4 p.m., Weds. and Sundays, [applespring@eoni.com](mailto:applespring@eoni.com)



**Ascension Camp** (541) 568-4514  
Church Street, Cove  
Ascension Camp structures include the historic Ascension Chapel and Barton House, both built in the 1870s. Summer sessions are available for all ages; youth retreats in autumn. Here, children learn regenerative methods of growing food at the farmstead and greenhouse where produce is grown for the camp, food pantry and senior meals. [coveascensionschool.com](https://www.coveascensionschool.com)

**K) Martens Farm** (541) 568-4513  
305 Hwy 237, Cove  
Eggs by pastured hens and other farm products. A family affair.

**Hendershott Home**  
61502 Union-Cove Hwy 237, Cove  
Cove's historic neo-gothic Hendershott Home has a rich history. James Hendershott came to Oregon by wagon

train in 1852 and was joined by his wife, Harriett Jane, and daughters in 1857. James set up an inn at nearby Hendershott Point, and raised fruits and vegetables for the mines. James later set up a farmstead in Cove. In 1877, he built this home at the western edge of Cove.

**L) Grande Ronde Goat Dairy** (541) 805-9622  
67733 Hutchinson Lane, Union  
The year-round Grade A commercial goat dairy, sells raw milk to artisan cheese makers in Northern California. With 250 milking does, the dairy is fully managed and staffed by female students and women who have a passion for agriculture. Does kid December through June. Milking takes place twice each day. Tours by appointment. [granderondenubians.com](https://www.granderondenubians.com)



**M) Wing's U-Pick Corn** (541) 562-5870  
57913 Union-Cove Hwy 237, Union  
Farmstand with late-summer fresh corn and pumpkins. Mark and Judy Wing offer horse-drawn wagon rides on special occasions.

**N) Bar MD Cattle Co.** (541) 786-1492  
1598 N. Cove Street (Cove-Union Hwy), Union  
Natural, local grass-fed beef for sale. [barmd@eoni.com](mailto:barmd@eoni.com)

**O) Dora's Garden** (541) 562-5465  
1393 N. Cove Street, Union  
Certified organic produce at self-serve farm stand, May - Oct., open daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wide variety of vegetables, fruits, herbs, flowers, garlic braids, chicken and duck eggs, fruit preserves, teas and alfalfa hay from farm that has been in the family since 1890. [dorasgarden.com](https://www.dorasgarden.com)

**P) Wred Wiggler Worm Wranch** (541) 562-1057  
1286 N. Cove Street, Union  
Hobby farm that raises Red Wiggler Worms, worm castings, and worm "tea" for fertilizer. Worms are raised in pesticide free soil. They make wonderful additions to any garden, flowerbed or farm, as they enrich the soil with necessary nutrients. Stop by!

**Q) Hometown Hardware Store** (541) 562-5472  
206 S. Main St., Union  
A fun stop, this hardware & liquor store, has an espresso shop and a garden center, with plants grown for the area. [facebook.com/Hometown-Hardware-Store](https://www.facebook.com/Hometown-Hardware-Store)

**R) Union County Museum** (541) 562-6003  
333 S. Main Street, Union  
Featured exhibits include Agriculture, Timber & Transportation; Cowboys Then & Now; the Livery station; the General Store, Period Rooms and more. Open Mother's Day through October, Mon. - Sat. 10 to 4 p.m. [ucmuseumoregon.com](https://www.ucmuseumoregon.com)



**Eastern Oregon Livestock Show**  
760 East Delta Street, Union  
The "Stockshow Grounds" are the center of activity the first full week every June for the 4H and FFA livestock show and auction, and a PRCA rodeo with horse races. Activities year-round.

**S) B.O.B. Exclusively Grass-Fed Beef** (541) 805-1124  
1782 S. Main, Union  
Beyond Organic Beef is exclusively grass-fed and grown to enhance the health of the land that creates it and the people who enjoy it. This location was once the Union County "Poor Farm." In 1854, territorial legislature gave the counties the responsibility of caring for the poor. The existing house was built in 1910. Call to place an order or download an order form from the website. [beyondorganicbeef.com](https://www.beyondorganicbeef.com)

**T) Eastern Oregon Agriculture Experiment Station**  
372 South Tenth Street, Union (541) 562-5129  
An Oregon State University station that specializes in research to develop agricultural and natural resource strategies that maintain or enhance intermountain forest and shrub steppe ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations. [oregonstate.edu/dept/eoarcunion/](https://www.oregonstate.edu/dept/eoarcunion/)

**U) Platz Family Produce** (541) 562-5072  
or (541) 805-1560  
1624 N. First, Union (turn north off Hwy 203)  
Farmstand, U-pick. Open Mon.-Wed.-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and more, end of May through late October. The season starts with spring salad greens, then a variety of summer fruits and vegetables including U-pick and we-pick berries, finishing with a bountiful harvest of sweet corn, tomatoes, and a variety of winter squash. [facebook.com/PlatzFamilyProduce](https://www.facebook.com/PlatzFamilyProduce)



**V) Intermountain Livestock** (541) 963-2158  
60654 Livestock Rd (at McAllister Rd)  
Stop in on Thursday afternoons to watch a professional auctioneer at work and expert livestock handlers run a fast-paced public livestock auction. Try Aggie's Sale Yard Café inside the sale barn for a burger or a cup of coffee – 75 cents for the first cup then free for rest of the day! [imlivestock.com](https://www.imlivestock.com)

**W) D & B Supply** (541) 963-8466  
10101 E. First St, Island City  
Find everything from bunnies to western clothes, fence posts to garden supplies. This is where farmers and ranchers find what they need to keep the farm running. Take home a cowboy hat or a western belt! [dbsupply.com](https://www.dbsupply.com)

See a video overview of agriculture in Union County: [grvoutskirts.com/2015/11/agriculture-in-union-county/](https://www.grvoutskirts.com/2015/11/agriculture-in-union-county/)

For information on more things to see and do, stop by the Visitor Center, at 207 Depot Street in downtown La Grande. 800.848.9969 [unioncountychamber.org](https://www.unioncountychamber.org)