



11000300

TEXAS WEBB-MAVERICK REGION FOREWORD

The enterprise budgets for the Webb-Maverick study area are based on yields as shown on form 11000600. Only one dryland budget was developed for the area, that being buffel grass pasture. According to county agricultural Extension agents and others in the counties, for all practical purposes dryland acreage of other crops is zero.

Webb and Maverick counties are characterized, in the cropland areas, by a relatively small number of growers for each of the commercial crops being grown. Many of the producers have moved in from other areas and are attempting to utilize skills acquired in other areas.

Webb County irrigated land tends to be rolling land which is terraced. Irrigation water is generally pumped from the river to permanent ditches and then irrigation is by gravity flow. Maverick County irrigated land is partly rolling and partly bottom land. Irrigation water is delivered to the farm by a series of canals oper-

ated and maintained by an irrigation district.

Water usage in both counties is high and rainfall is low and not evenly distributed throughout the growing season. Dryland farming is risky to the point of being practically nonexistent, with the exception of buffelgrass pastures. Because rainfall timing, amount and utilization are generally poor, it is unlikely that any significant amount of dryland farming would take place in the absence of irrigation. Open land would probably be planted in permanent pasture and livestock would most likely displace crop farming.

Acres of grain sorghum and cotton in both counties are very low, both being grown by only one or two farmers.

In most cases only one level of management was distinguishable due to the small size of the farming area and to the small number of farmers producing the crop. In practically all cases crops are being grown by an owner-operator.