



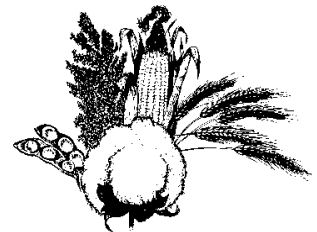
Facts About Texas Agriculture

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<http://agecoext.tamu.edu/resources/library/publications/facts-about-texas-us-agriculture.html>

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Agriculture and Natural Resources • Family and Consumer Sciences • 4-H and Youth Development • Community Development

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

A member of The Texas University System and its statewide Agriculture Program

Agriculture

Agriculture is an important economic sector in Texas and the United States. Many businesses, financial institutions and individuals are involved in providing supplies, credit and services to farmers and ranchers in processing and marketing commodities.

With increasing demand for food and fiber worldwide, and because of the importance of agricultural exports to the U.S. trade balance, agriculture is destined to play an even greater role in the future.

Texas ranked fourth during 2016, behind California, Iowa, and Nebraska among states in cash receipts. A large area of productive soils and excellent export and transportation facilities favor farming and ranching operations in the state.

Texas ranks first in sales of cattle and calves, sheep and wool, goats and mohair, and cotton; and in the value of farm real estate, number of farms and ranches, and amount of farm and ranch land.

The number of farms in Texas has decreased from 506,000 in 1931 to 240,000 in 2017, with an average farm size of 540 acres.

In 2017, farms with sales of less than \$10,000 gross value totaled 149,000, or 62 percent of all Texas farm operations, but used only 12 percent of the land. Operations that had \$10,000 to \$99,999 in sales totaled 70,200 farms or 29 percent of the group, and 32 percent of acreage. Farms with sales of \$100,000 to \$249,999 totaled 9,000, used 16 percent of land, and accounted for 4 percent of farms. The operations with \$250,000 and over in sales totaled 11,800, or 5 percent of farms, and included 40 percent of land.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M AgriLife Research, agencies of The Texas A&M University System, support the State's agricultural industry through education and research.

The Changing Face of Texas and U.S. Agriculture

Agriculture in Texas Today

- Agriculture is big business in Texas -- the estimated value of 2017 agricultural production and related items totaled \$26.14 billion, \$23.55 billion in 2016, and \$23.97 billion in 2015.

- Demographics
 - ☞ Changes revealed in the U.S. by the 2012 Census of Agriculture data compared to the 2007 Census
 - √ Farms with 2,000 acres or more increased 2 percent to 82,207 farms.
 - √ Average farm size increased 16 acres to 434 acres.
 - √ Total number of U.S. farms decreased to 2.1 million; this is a decrease of about 95,489 farms since 2007.
 - √ Over 50 percent of farms have less than \$10,000 in sales.
 - √ Average age of operator in 2012 was 58.3 whereas in 2007 was 57.1
 - √ Number of farmers whose principal occupation was farming increased 1.4 percent to 1,007,904.
 - √ The number of family or individual farms decreased 0.4 percent to 1,828,946; partnership farms decreased 26.3 percent to 137,987; corporations increased 10 percent to 106,716; and other farm type increased 21 percent to 35,654. Families or individuals operate 86.7 percent of operations; 6.6 percent are partnerships; 5.1 percent corporations; and other, 1.7 percent.
 - √ Acres of land in farms decreased 0.8 percent.
 - ☞ Changes in Texas agriculture revealed by the 2012 Census of Agriculture data compared to the 2007 Census
 - √ Growth to large farms in Texas has slowed.
 - √ Texas farms with 2,000 acres or more increased 494 acres to 10,810 in 2012.
 - √ The number of 1 to 9 acre farms decreased by from 21,024 to 20,825. The number of 10 to 49 acre farms increased 72,837 to 72,856, and the 50 to 2,000 acre farms increased slightly.
 - √ Land in farms decreased by 245,315 acres to 130,153,438.
 - √ Average farm size decreased from 527 to 523 acres.
 - √ Number of farmers whose principal occupation was farming increased 6 percent to 104,769.

- √ Total number of farms increased from 247,437 to 248,809.
- √ The number of family or individual farms increased 2 percent to 222,580; partnership farms decreased 24 percent to 16,660; corporations increased 16.8 percent to 6,859; and other farm type decreased 8.8 percent to 2,710. Individuals and families owned 89.5 percent of farms and ranches; partnerships, 6.7 percent; corporations, 2.8 percent; and others, 1.1 percent.
- √ Drought -- droughts in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2006, 2009, and 2011-2013 have taken more than \$38.5 billion from the Texas economy. Farm and ranch production losses during the same years totaled about \$21.62 billion.