



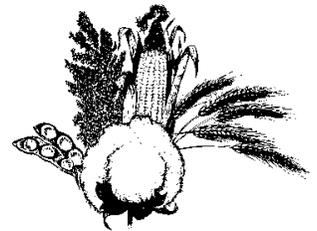
Facts About Texas Agriculture

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

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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 third during 2018, behind California and Iowa, respectively, 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 247,000 in 2018, with an average farm size of 514 acres.

In 2018, farms with sales of less than \$10,000 gross value totaled 156,500, or 63 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 72,800 farms or 29 percent of the group, and 30 percent of acreage. Farms with sales of \$100,000 to \$249,999 totaled 7,500, used 16 percent of land, and accounted for 3 percent of farms. The operations with \$250,000 and over in sales totaled 10,200, or 4 percent of farms, and included 42 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 is big business in Texas -- the estimated value of 2018 agricultural production and related items totaled \$25.06 billion, \$26.14 billion in 2017, and \$23.55 billion in 2016.
- Demographics
 - ☞ Changes revealed in the U.S. by the 2017 Census of Agriculture data compared to the 2012 Census
 - √ Farms with 2,000 acres or more increased 3 percent to 85,127 farms.
 - √ Average farm size increased 7 acres to 441 acres.
 - √ Total number of U.S. farms decreased to 2.04 million; this is a decrease of about 67,083 farms since 2012.
 - √ Over 50 percent of farms have less than \$10,000 in sales.
 - √ Average age of operator in 2017 was 57.5; whereas in 2012 was 56.3
 - √ Number of farmers whose principal occupation was farming increased from 1,412,077 to 1,416,848.
 - √ The number of family or individual farms decreased 0.4 percent to 1,751,126; partnership farms decreased 6.0 percent to 130,173; corporations increased 9.0 percent to 116,840; and other farm type increased 19 percent to 44,081. Families or individuals operate 85.7 percent of operations; 6.4 percent are partnerships; 5.7 percent corporations; and other, 2.2 percent.
 - √ Acres of land in farms decreased 0.2 percent.
 - ☞ Changes in Texas agriculture revealed by the 2017 Census of Agriculture data compared to the 2012 Census
 - √ Growth to large farms of has increased 2.1%.
 - √ Texas farms with 2,000 acres or more increased 227 acres to 11,037 in 2017.
 - √ The number of 1 to 9 acre farms increased by from 20,825 to 27,889. The number of 10 to 49 acre farms increased from 72,856 to 81,616; and the 50 to 2,000 acre farms decreased 11.7% or 155,128 acres to 138,911.
 - √ Land in farms decreased by 3.12 million acres to 127,036,184.
 - √ Average farm size decreased from 523 to 511 acres.
 - √ Total number of farms decreased from 248,809 to 248,416.
 - √ The number of family or individual farms increased from 222,580 to 223,284; partnership farms decreased 17% to 14,211; corporations increased 5.6% to 7,267; and other farm type increased 26% to 3,654. Individuals and families owned 89.9% of farms and ranches; partnerships, 5.7%; corporations, 2.9%; and others, 1.5%.
 - √ 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.