

A Look at Texas Agriculture



Capital: Austin

Population: 24,782,000

Founded: December 29, 1845 (28th)

State Bird: Mockingbird

State Tree: Pecan

State Flower: Bluebonnet

Number of Counties: 254

Largest City: Houston - 2.3 million

Nickname: Lone Star State

Number of Farms: 247,500

Average Farm Size: 527 acres

Total Farmland: 130 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Texas enjoys a long growing season with planting beginning in February in the southern part of the state; April and May in the north.
- It becomes very hot during the months of June, July, & August. The Central Plains being the hottest in the state, with temperatures sometimes as high 114-120°F.
- The four different regions of Texas vary in average annual rainfall, decreasing from east to west.

Coastal Plains	30-55"
Central Plains	20-30"
High Plains	15-20"
Mountains & Basins	0-16"
- Texas diverse weather is due to the vast amount of land and two air masses that meet, Rocky Mountain, Canadian cold air mass and the Gulf of Mexico's warm, moist air.
- Texas has approximately 1,100 different soils within its borders.
- The Texas state soil is Houston Black Clay.

Crops & Livestock

- Cotton, one of Texas top 10 commodities, was growing wild in the 16th century. Cotton is now a major cash crop of Texas. Texas ranks first in the U.S. for cotton production.
- The top five crops raised in Texas are:
 - Cotton
 - Greenhouse & Nursery
 - Corn
 - Wheat
 - Hay
- There were 4,474,000 bales of cotton produced in 2008.
- Texas was the leading state in cattle operations and cattle & calves for 2008. There were 149,000 cattle operations and a total of 13,800,000 head of cattle/ calves.
- There were 960,000 sheep and lambs in Texas in the year 2008. They produced 4.2 million pounds of wool, which put Texas first in wool production.
- Texas is #1 in the nation in:
 - Cattle
 - Cotton
 - Sheep & goats
 - Wool & mohair
 - Hay production

General

- Agriculture is the second largest industry in the state, generating \$80 billion for the economy annually.
- Texas has 266,807 sq. miles of land or 172 million acres.
- Big Spring, TX - named for one the states largest natural springs.
- Texas was an independent nation from 1836-1845.
- Before 1836, Texas was a part of Mexico.
- The Alamo in San Antonio is known as the "Cradle of Texas Liberty".