

A Look at Texas Agriculture

Texas



Capital: Austin
Population: 28,995,881 in 2019 (U.S. Census)
Founded: December 29, 1845 (28th state)
State Nickname: Lone Star State
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Tree: Pecan
State Flower: Bluebonnet
State Grass: Sideoats Grama
State Soil: Houston Black Clay
Motto: Friendship
Number of Counties: 254
Largest City: Houston, Population-2,325,502 in 2018 (City of Houston, 2020)

Climature



- 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 month of June, July and August. The Central Plains being the hottest in the state, with temperatures sometimes as high as 114-120F.
- 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 and 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.

Crops



- Cotton was once growing wild in the 16th century. Cotton is now a major cash crop of Texas, producing 8.9 million bales in 2017.
- The top five crops raised in Texas are
 - Greenhouse and nursery
 - Cotton
 - Corn
 - Grain sorghum
 - Wheat
- Texas grows sunflowers, producing 61 million pounds of sunflower seeds.
- Texas grows a variety of vegetables such as sweet potatoes, cucumber, honeydew, spinach, Chile peppers and watermelon.

Animals



- Texas is the leading state in cattle operations and cattle and calves. According to the latest ag census in 2017, there were 153,000 cattle operations and a total of 12.5 million head of cattle/calves.
- According to the latest ag census data in 2017, there were 730,000 sheep and lambs in Texas and 2.2 million pounds of wool was produced.

Soil



- Texas has more than 1,300 different types of soil within its borders.

General



- Agriculture is the second largest industry in the state, generating more than \$100 billion for the economy annually.
- 98.6% of farm and ranches in Texas are family farms, partnerships or family-held corporations.
- Texas has 266,807 square miles of land or 172 million acres, 128 million acres of which are in agricultural production.
- The average farm size is 511 acres and there are 248,416 farms in Texas.
- Big Spring, Texas, is named for one of the state's largest natural springs.
- Texas is called the "Lone Star State" because of the single star in the state flag. Six different flags have flown over Texas: Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas (Lone Star), the Confederate States and the United States.
- The Alamo in San Antonio is known as the "Cradle of Texas Liberty".
- Texas is #1 in the nation in Cattle, Cotton, Sheep and Goats, Wool and Mohair, Hay production, and Grain sorghum
- 1 in 7 working Texans (14%) are in an agriculture related job.
- Texas has the most women agricultural producers.
- The King Ranch is bigger than the state of Rhode Island.
- Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.