

A Look at Texas Agriculture



Texas

Capital: Austin
Population: 20,851,820 (2000)
Founded: December 29, 1845 (28th 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:** 1,953,631

Climate



- 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.

Crops



- Cotton, one of Texas top 10 commodities, was growing wild in the 16th century. Cotton is now a major cash crop of Texas.
- The top five crops raised in Texas are:
Greenhouse & Nursery, Cotton, Corn, Grain, Sorghum, Wheat
- There were 3,940,000 bales of cotton produced in 2000.

Soil



- Texas has approximately 1,100 different soils within its borders.

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, 130 million acres of which are in agricultural production.
- Big Spring, TX - named for one the states largest natural springs.
- The Lone Star - 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 TX (Lone Star), United States, and the Confederate States.
- The average farm size is 575 acres and there are 226,000 farms in Texas.
- 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".
- Texas is #1 in the nation in :
Cattle
Cotton
Sheep & goats
Wool & mohair
Hay production
Processed spinach

Animals



- Texas was the leading state in cattle operations and cattle & calves for 2000. There were 152,000 cattle operations and a total of 13,700,000 head of cattle/calves.
- There were 1,100,000 sheep and lambs in Texas in the year 2000. They produced 7.6 million pounds of wool, which put Texas first in wool production.



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