

A Look at *Texas* Agriculture

Capital: Austin

Population: 30,029,572

Founded: December 29, 1845 (28th)

State Bird: Mockingbird

State Tree: Pecan

State Flower: Bluebonnet

Number of Counties: 254

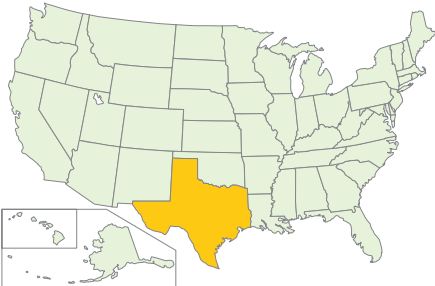
Largest City: Houston - 2.3 million

Nickname: Lone Star State

Number of Farms & Ranches: 248,416

Average Farm Size: 411 acres

Total Farmland: 127 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 commodities in Texas are:
 - Cattle
 - Broilers
 - Cotton
 - Dairy
 - Corn
- There were 8,923,912 bales of cotton produced in 2017.
- Texas was the leading state in cattle operations and cattle & calves for 2017. There were 152,882 cattle operations and a total of 12,573,876 head of cattle/calves.
- There were 729,438 sheep and lambs in Texas in the year 2017. They produced 2,224,455 pounds of wool.
- Texas is #1 in the nation in:
 - Cattle
 - Cotton
 - Sheep & goats
 - Mohair
 - Hay production

General

- Agriculture contributed \$25 Billion to the economy in 2017.
- 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".